



**EAST KENT BRANCH**  
**ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION**



**SEPTEMBER 2016**  
**NEWSLETTER No 296**



*Cheerful members enjoy their  
Sunday Lunch*



*School Gypsy Tart was never  
served like this..was it ?*

*On a very pleasant sunny Sunday lunchtime, a small group, of members met at the Halfway House in Challock for what was an excellently prepared lunch, served in the function room by our very efficient waitresses and our host Nicola. Conversation abounded and everyone seemed to be in good spirits, must have been the weather ! It was good to see **Pat Haw** enjoying the company of members once again, following a prolonged absence due to health concerns, and **Brian Deakin** managed to make an appearance, following his recent bout of health worries.*

*At the committee meeting prior to the Sunday event, **John Badcock** explained that following a recent curtain blind malfunction, and the need for a rather lengthy support for one end of it, he was reminded of the Roman spears used in (for those that can remember) the Roman Drill episode back in the day, which would ideally suit his purpose. On returning said item to the darkest recesses of the shed, was reminded of the pig sticking by mounted horsemen, and as he was aboard his scooter came up with the idea that this would be a rather good idea for some pre lunch entertainment. And so, with looped flower pots proceeded to test out the practicalities, and it worked. Alas, after a recce of the site at Challock, a suitable arena couldn't be found, so a quick table quiz was organised to fill the gap. Do not be disheartened, loyal reader, watch out for this exciting and spell binding interlude at a later date.*

***Marion Ballantyne's** raffle raised a very respectable sum of £43 nett, which was extremely generous of the members attending.*

**News of Members.** It was great to see **Pat Haw** and **Brian Deakin** back amongst us, having both been absent due to health concerns. Let's hope they will be able to enjoy the branch activities more in the future.

News has reached the branch through a friend of **Richard Gibson**, who has recently suffered a small stroke, which not unnaturally has resulted in a period of inactivity. The branch wishes you well **Richard** and hopes that you will soon be back to yourself, and able to join in again.

**Sheila Dickason** had a long telephone conversation with the Hon Sec recently, sadly reporting the passing of **Doug**. Many of you will remember **Doug** as a stalwart member of the branch, supporting us at many events, but is probably more remembered for being the driving force behind the setting up of the Harrogate Apprentice College Branch, for which he received an RSA Honour Membership award some years ago, before retiring with **Sheila** and moving to Woking to be closer to family. Naturally, being so far away prevented them from attending our functions, and so reluctantly resigned a few years ago. None the less, his commitment to the branch and the RSA for so many years is worthy of a mention to all those who will remember **Doug** with great fondness and his spirited support for the Association. The branch sends condolences to **Sheila** and their family.

**Future functions.** Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> October, and the branch meets at the Masonic Hall in Dover 134, Snargate Street CT17 9DA...right opposite the Harbour. Parking is restricted in the street but there is a public car park at the harbour, the entrance for which is at the De Bradley Wharf shopping centre. **Flt Lt. Paddy Lansdown** will give a pre lunch talk on the years he spent in the air, flying Vulcan bombers during the cold war, and will be followed by a rather large 4 course lunch at a cost of £17 pp **Paddy's** talk will begin at 12 sharp and lunch will be served at approx. 13.00. Please complete the menu requests and return to the Hon Sec **ASAP**.

Rather later this year is the Remembrance Sunday parade and lunch on 13<sup>th</sup> November. Lunch will be served at 13.00 in the Kent & Canterbury Club (opposite the Police Station in Old Dover Road) preceded by the parade to the Butter Market Wreath laying, Cathedral service of Remembrance and the march past through the High Street. Please make an effort to join the marching contingent if you can, our ranks have been rather depleted over the last few years. More details will be forthcoming in the next newsletter.

And then it's Christmas.....Where's the time gone ? The Grange Moor Hotel, Maidstone, 18<sup>th</sup> December, details later.

**Notices.** RHQ has tickets for the opening of the Field of Remembrance in Westminster Abbey on 10<sup>th</sup> November. Ticket holders need to be in the Abbey by 10.30am and should expect to leave at around 14.30. 2 ID's will be required (one photographic) and the Inns of Court Sig Sqn Officer's Mess will be open for refreshments following. If you would like to attend, please contact the Hon Sec soonest as tickets are in limited supply and issued on first come first served basis.

To, The Hon Sec, 16, St Michael's Close, Rough Common, Canterbury, CT2 9BN.

My party for Lunch on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> October at The Masonic Hall, Dover, will be.....persons @ £17pp

For 4 course lunch and speaker.

Our choices from the menu below are as follows :-

Starter	Name	Name	Name	Name	Name	Name
Mexican bean soup.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Tomato & basil soup.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Melon balls.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Tuna salad.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Main						
Roast beef & Yorkshire pud.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Roast lamb.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Baked chicken.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Poached salmon in white wine.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Potato choice						
Plain Roasted.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Parsley potatoes.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Dessert						
Fresh fruit salad.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
PeachMelba.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Coffee & walnut gateaux.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Old English apple pie.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....

A cheese board will be served with coffee. Please mark your choices clearly, especially the potato choice.

Please find enclosed cheque for £.....

NAME.....



**ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION**

**EAST KENT BRANCH**

**Sunday Lunch**



16<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2016 at 1130 for 1200

Masonic Hall, Snargate Street, Dover CT17 9DA



With a talk on

**THE LAST FLYING VULCAN BOMBER**

**By Flt Lt Paddy Langdown (RAF Ret'd)**

**Retired RAF Pilot who flew Vulcans for  
thirteen years**

For more details contact John Ballantyne on 01227 769530 or  
johnmaz21@hotmail.com