

NEWCASTLE & GATESHEAD 0370 BRANCH

BENWELL HILL CRICKET CLUB

Denton Bank, West Road, NE15 7EU

RAFA Secretary 07954 598883

JULY 6th 2026 BRANCH MEETING - 7pm

1st June 2026 Branch Meeting Minutes

Present

C. James, K. Bowers, D. Owens, B. Houston, K. Allen, M. Collins, D. Gilbert,

Dedication C. James

Apologies

R. Knox, R. Hill, A. Farley, K. Mongan, B. Cuss, M. Leonard - RAFLO

Chair

Welcome to this meeting, a lot of events coming up in June and we need to get more support from those members who do not attend meetings but maybe can give a couple of hours with Wings collections/events, propose a letter being sent giving list of dates/venues etc.

Now intend that counting of collections take place at my house with 2 or 3 others helping, this will take a lot of pressure off our treasurer, also it will be easier for all branch equipment to be stored in my premises for collection and return. Will be looking a purchase of a new gazebo, larger and more efficient for future events.

Now have 2 Armed Forces Champions in Council, Cllr David Down, LibDem and Cllr Amy Hunter, Reform – look forward to working with them

Secretary

No RAFA correspondence to date, planned RAFAC squadron for attending at Ponteland have pulled so will ask another squadron. Battle of Britain date for September not yet set in stone but will contact Canon Ruth at the Cathedral when she returns from holidays.

Reminder of forthcoming events

June 14th – Ponteland party in the Park, Secretary attending with RAFAC assistance?? - gazebo/stock/table to be taken.

June 20th – Spennymoor Armed Forces Day

June 21st – Stanley Raise the Flag – RAFA Members attending

June 26/27 – Newcastle Central Station 2-day Wings Collection

June 27th – AFD Consett, RAFA Members attending

June 27th - Newcastle Armed Forces Day – details TBC re venue/event etc.

June 28th – Stanley Armed Forces Day – RAFA Members attending

Treasurer

May opening balance £5845.37 with month's incomes totalled £418.39, being Wings of £133.90 and a branch donation of £28.00. Expenditure of £269.16 was of £202.08 Branch expenses, Wings incurred expense of £24.28 and ANZAC event of £ 42.80, Balances to June total £5994.60. Report was proposed by M Collins and 2nd by D. Gilbert on behalf of members present.

Wings – K Allen, in view of other events on 27th June and little manpower, do Branch want that date changed to July – Decision to leave as is. Ken will arrange to cover the 27th along with proposed RAF support.

M Collins is struggling to get stock from RAFATRAD, very little on the shelves. Has made up boxes of available stock for the events Debbie and Andy are taking part in - Ponteland, Spennymoor, Consett and Stanley

RAFLO - Welfare – Ceremonial Not present for presentations

AOB

There will be an AFD in Newcastle on the 27th, a small event but hope it will grow more each year. A problem this year is many other organisations and councils have evens on same day, so possible a different date 2027 therefore we can make more of other events as RAFA, nor do we want to be beside other military charities – i.e we need to raise as much for our own, on our own. At Blyth Battery the gazebo is showing its age and is small, so we need to look to getting a new, larger one, more suitable for future events – 4.5 x 4.5m

Battle of Britain – At present looking at 13th Sept, a 3pm service with Cathedral evensong. Once confirmed we can then invite all other organisations – need to collate an event diary with all contacts for future events.

Meeting closed