

NEWCASTLE & GATESHEAD 0370 BRANCH

BENWELL HILL CRICKET CLUB

Denton Bank, West Road, NE15 7EU

RAFA Secretary 07954 598883

JUNE 1st 2026 BRANCH MEETING - 7pm

4th May 2026 Branch Meeting Minutes

Present

C. James, D. Owens, B. Houston, M. Collins, K. Mongan, M. James, D. Gilbert, B. Cuss, M. Leonard – RAFLO.

Dedication M. James

Apologies

K. Bowers, K. Allen, R. Knox, R. Hill, A. Farley

Chair

Welcomed members to this May Bank holiday meeting.

Give thanks to RAF Boulmer for a tremendous turnout at ANZAC, received nothing but praise for the event from the Lord Lieutenant, our Branch President, Air Cdr Corney who said it was the best ANZAC event he has attended and from many others who were present. One or two items to iron out for future, and look at the buffet cost as well, discuss in Committee. We have already booked Chevington again for 2027 via the CWGC.

Am very displeased about an event held at Eldon Square cenotaph, railings etc covered in propaganda and have complained to NE1 and City Council.

Secretary

Firstly, was informed that a proposed ANZAC event on the CWGC website for the following day did not take place, people had turned up but non one was there, so emailed their complaints to the CWGC regarding the non-event.

Regarding the afters at Hadston House, can I request RAFA members remain behind to help clearing up the venue. Delighted to say the surplus buffet was generously given to the Centre and was put to good use by them at 2 events.

Waiting to hear from the Cathedral re Battle of Britain event, though a date was sent from M Toft we still must find out what date RAF Boulmer will hold their ANWICK parade to be able to confirm ours. Also to know of any costs involved and possibility of refreshments – either RAFA or Cathedral.

Updates on forthcoming events

Saturday 9th May – Longbenton RAFAC 70-year anniversary, and blessing of a new standard at St Bartholomew's Church – service at 2pm.

Blyth Battery 16/17th May – 2 Branch members attending but need more to man the stand. – gazebo/stock/tables etc to be taken

Area Conference is in Glasgow on the 16th Secretary and K Mongan attending.

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

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

August – Elvington event – details later for Members

Still waiting to speak to Dean of Newcastle Cathedral re Battle of Britain Sunday and if costs will be incurred.

Treasurer

April opening balance £4707.19 with month's incomes totalled £2190.51, being wings collections/donations of £2164.51 and a branch donation of £26.00. Expenditure of £1052.33 was of £101.58 Branch support expenses, Wings incurred expense of £35.75 and ANZAC event of £915.00 for Buffet/refreshments/musicians. Balances to May total £5845.37

Wings – Not available

RAFLO - Very little to report, station is extremely busy.

Welfare

Welfare officer has DBS confirmed and further training courses for June.
Secretary has had cards printed and ready.

On behalf chair, Bill to visit a branch member, and to organise further visits to 3 other branch members.

Chair will visit Molly in her care home to show photos and short video of the ANZAC event which she could not attend.

Social

Kevin, to date, has received only 1 completed form re suggestion for outings etc this year. Debbie tasked to produce flyers with the information for outings and events to be held and then can be emailed to members and handed out at events. Place on our Facebook/web pages.

AOB

Battle of Britain week 11th – 15th September – RAFA Newcastle hoping for Newcastle Cathedral service 20th – TBC.

Friday 23rd October – Crosses planted in Field of Remembrance, Saltwell Park, Gateshead. Further information on details if required
- Please contact secretary at secretary@rafanewcastle.org.uk

Sunday 31st October, Field of Remembrance service, commencing 9.30 am Saltwell Park, Gateshead.

Short social gathering after the meeting followed.