

NEWCASTLE & GATESHEAD 0370 BRANCH

BENWELL HILL CRICKET CLUB

Denton Bank, West Road, NE15 7EU

RAFA Secretary 07954 598883

October 7th, 2026, Branch Meeting - 7pm

September 2026 Branch Meeting

Present:

C James, K Bowers, D Owens, B Houston, K Allen, M Collins, A Farley,
K Mongan, D Gilbert, B Cuss, M James

Dedication: K Mongan

Apologies: R Cheese, K Saunders, R Hill, Mark Leonard - RAFLO

Chair: welcomed all to meeting. Firstly, thanks to all who attended the Battle of Britain service in the Cathedral, especially to Karen with the Standards and those who helped, a lot of very good feedback from various people on the service, band and choir, the clergy were thrilled about the feedback. We would like to return but possibly have the service earlier in the day if possible, I will make enquiries regards booking and timing.

Whitley Bay Battle of Britain on the 13th - first weekend with branch present, normally details done by council, but hope to make it more Branch organised.

Central Station on 11th and 12th for collecting, people assisting

Friday - C James, M James, M Collins, R Cheese plus 4 uniform/Leeming

Saturday - M Collins, B Houston. C James (later) 3 uniform/Boulmer.

Received a letter from OC RAF Leeming thanking branch for the donation towards refurbishment of houses, with an invitation for members to visit the station sometime in 2027.

19th September - Memorial service for N Trotter, ex MP and RAFA member to be held in United Reform Church, Jesmond at 13.00, Branch will attend.

Secretary - nothing from RAFA to date. Re Battle of Britain, had to remain behind to help clear up, would appreciate in future other members assist with this. Gave thank you notes to clergy and helpers etc.

NOTE - 23 October - Saltwell Park, Gateshead - planting of crosses 10 am.

30 October - Saltwell Park - Field of Remembrance opens 9.30 am.

All Branch members and Standards invited.

Treasurer - August Accounts. Opening balance of £6200:95. Income for Wings Appeal collections at Yorkshire Air Museum and Tesco Kingston Park totalled £1142:32 plus a £10:00 donation and a Branch donation of £30:00 totalled £118:32. Incurred various branch expenditure was £312.05 and Branch paid Welfare/Wellbeing costs for members attending Yorkshire Air Museum/Coach/fuel/tickets £370:40, plus a floral tribute for funeral of Branch member £55.00 (Welfare costs of £425.40 to be re-imbursed into the Branch general account). Balance c/f to September £6645:82 - Treasurer accounts approved by A Farley and seconded by K Allen on behalf of members present.

Welfare - now fully up and running with Welfare cases, making new inroads with other veteran organisations and care homes who have resident veterans. Have spoken with P Greenwood, RAFA and with Kevin will the portal calendar to show what we do as a branch - the information given is collected by RAFA and is used in the annual report about each branch.

Worked with Bill on a request from HQ being tasked to trace and verify a list of members that HQ no longer appears to have contact with - if unable to establish these people HQ will remove them from membership.

Wings - good results from August collections. Will try and see if we can have any dates for December collecting - maybe with a Santa Claus. Metro Centre might be able to have a place beside NEXT – a little pop up shop!!

RAFLO - not present for the meeting.

Social Wellbeing - Kevin proposed more activities during meeting, less on formal - Bar games, quiz nights etc.. Also, would like return of the BEER CRAWL round Newcastle - date tbc, previous event had been well received.

Any enquiries to Kevin via secretary@rafanewcastle.org.uk

AOB:

Remembrance Sunday, 8 November, we have following representing the Branch with wreaths/Standards:

Consett: A Farley

Gateshead: K Allen (with RAFAC carrying Standard??)

Gosforth: M Collins

Newcastle (Eldon Square): K Bowers and D Gilbert (Standard)

Newcastle (West End Crematorium): B Houston and D Owens

Rowlands Gill: K Mongan

Whitley Bay: tbc.

Meeting closed.