

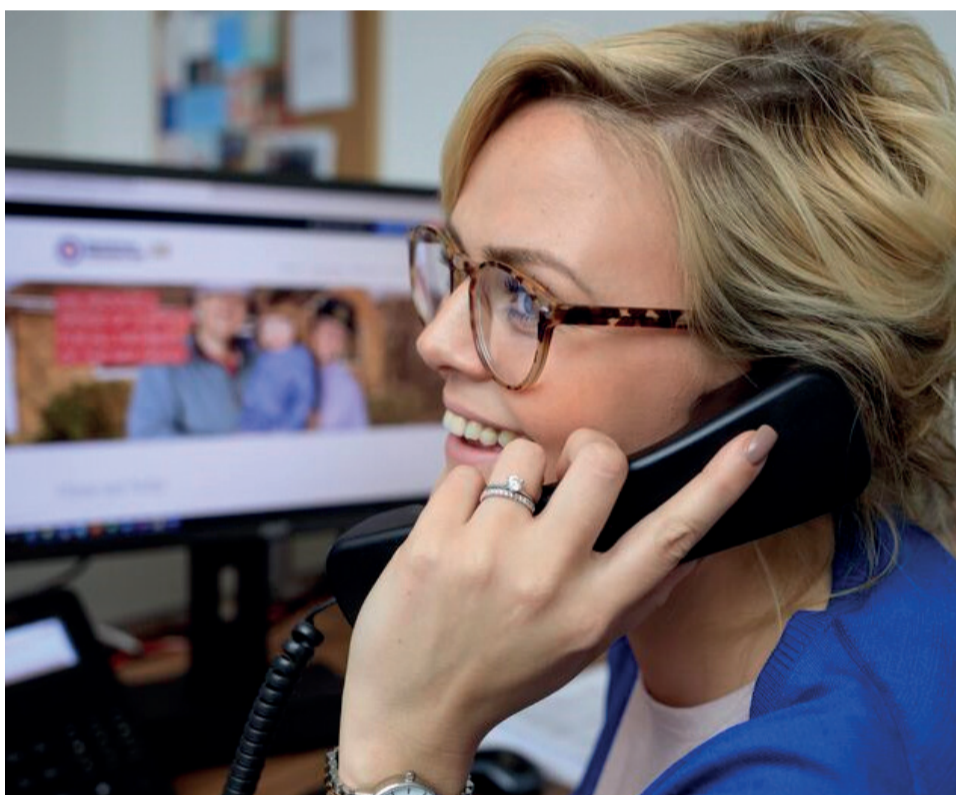


# ON THE RADAR

ISSUE 01  
Summer 2020

## WE ARE HERE TO HELP

In these difficult times, we want to reassure members of the RAF Family that we are still here.



### Welcome to our first edition of *On The Radar!*

As we weather difficult times together, we want to ensure that the RAF Family can access the very best support. In addition to our core support, the Fund has expanded several welfare services which can help you.

You may find our legal advice helpline useful, to answer any legal queries you might have, including questions on employment law, housing, or consumer queries. Please contact **0300 222 5703** or **legal.advice@rafbf.org.uk** to access the helpline.

Veterans and their partners can contact the Fund's Benefits Advice and Advocacy Service, designed to help individuals navigate challenging social care and healthcare issues.

In a first for the military charity sector, we are proud to have launched a new online application form to allow UK-based members of the RAF Family to access support and emergency funds more easily. If you have access to the internet, it is easier than ever to apply for financial assistance up to £750 on **rafbf.org/financeform** or if you prefer, call our freephone number **0300 102 1919**.

## SUPPORT AT HOME

With the Fund's support ex-serviceman Andrew Stevens was able to manage his OCD and continue his job as a key worker through the coronavirus pandemic.



Following his transition to civilian life, Andrew became anxious and after 10 years, was diagnosed with severe OCD. Andrew turned to us in his time of need, crediting our Listening and Counselling Service with saving his life. The support he received allows him to manage his mental health and now Andrew works as a supermarket delivery driver.

In these uncertain times, the Fund has increased wellbeing services and introduced a 24-hour support helpline.

Let us know if you or someone else would benefit from a 'check-in' call to identify how we might be

able to help. You can email us at **support@rafbf.org.uk** or call us on **0300 222 5703**.

**"I'm proud to be on the frontline again, supporting the battle against coronavirus."**

**Through the Listening and Counselling Service, we offer personal counselling and guided self-help, relationship counselling, bereavement support and more.**

**FREE CALL**  
**0300 102 1919**  
**rafbf.org/covid19**

- ✓ FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
- ✓ WELLBEING BREAKS
- ✓ FAMILY & RELATIONSHIPS

- ✓ EMOTIONAL WELLBEING
- ✓ INDEPENDENT LIVING
- ✓ TRANSITION

**@rafbf**



## KEEP IN TOUCH

Our Telephone Friendship Groups provide access to peer support and friendship through a weekly phone call, all from the comfort of your own home.

The Fund has supported 87-year-old Reg Lawrence, who served in the RAF from 1951 to 1954. Reg is a proud user of the Fund's Telephone Friendship Group service.

You might feel nervous about speaking to new people. That's why we ask everyone about their interests to match them with like-minded callers. Whether you want to chat about your favourite TV show or current affairs, we'll find you the right group.

The Fund is also working hard to support veterans in other ways during the Covid-19 pandemic. We have introduced Check and Chat calls for vulnerable veterans including those who have visited Princess Marina House or our Respite at Home service.

If you're feeling isolated, why not get in touch and join one of these services?

To join one of our groups, please email [support@rafbf.org.uk](mailto:support@rafbf.org.uk) or call **0300 222 5703**.



## ALL STATIONS BROUGHT TO YOU

*All Stations* brings to life the compelling and remarkable stories of members of our RAF Family. Why not listen to the podcast at home?



To commemorate the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Britain, we launched a brand-new series of the All Stations podcast, where you can hear the inside stories from the battle. Journey with us back to 1940 as the pilots of Fighter Command, supported by those on the ground, took to the sky to defend Britain against a Nazi invasion. Listen to Series 2 on your favourite podcast app by searching for All Stations, or online at [rafbf.org/allstations](http://rafbf.org/allstations) fortnightly from July 10.

## QUIZ

Why not give our quiz a go and see how well you know your RAF!

1. On what date did the Battle of Britain commence?
2. In the 1969 film Battle of Britain, which actor played the part of Air Chief Marshal Sir Hugh Dowding?
3. During the Battle of Britain, which aircraft was used more than the Spitfire?
4. What role did the RAF aircraft play in the Vietnam War?
5. From which base did the Dambusters of 617 Squadron launch their famous raid?

1. 10 July 1940 2. Laurence Olivier  
3. Hawker Hurricane 4. Civilian  
evacuation 5. RAF Scampton

## PRINCESS MARINA HOUSE

The Board of Trustees of the RAF Benevolent Fund has reluctantly decided to permanently close Princess Marina House, its care and respite centre on the south coast.

This decision has not been taken lightly and is taken with great sadness, as we all know it is a unique and special place both to visit and to work.

Like so many organisations throughout the world, the Fund has found itself in an

unprecedented situation because of Covid-19 which would, inevitably, have fundamentally changed how Princess Marina House (PMH) operated.

As you may know, PMH was 'hibernated' in March 2020. In the Board's view, they felt it unlikely



that we would have felt able to welcome guests back before mid-2021, as our first duty is to provide a safe and secure facility. And when we had thought it suitable to re-open, guests' experience would have been vastly different to before, due to the measures we would have needed to put in place for their safety and that of our staff.

We simply can't keep the house hibernated indefinitely, as there is a real cost to this. Moreover, we have a duty to all our beneficiaries and supporters to spend our income in the most effective way possible, to make the biggest impact on the welfare of all of our beneficiaries.

As sad as this is, the Board is intent on doing the best they can for you and all the visitors to this much-loved facility. To that end, we will be exploring alternative support options for veterans in the Sussex area.

If you have any questions about this closure or concerns about support for yourself or a loved one please email [PMH@rafbf.org.uk](mailto:PMH@rafbf.org.uk) or call our helpline number.