



# ONE HEART

**YOUR RAF BENEVOLENT FUND NEWSLETTER**

Celebrating a century of supporting **OUR RAF FAMILY**

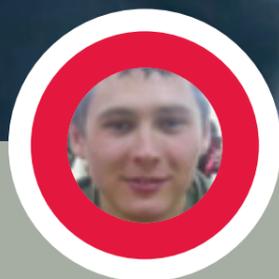
## ONE FAMILY A CENTURY OF SERVICE

Meet the family whose service is as old as the RAF itself

**INSIDE:** Thank you for supporting 55,000 RAF Family members



**ROAD TO RECOVERY**  
One little girl's remarkable courage after her mother passed away



**SELFLESSNESS IN LOSS**  
How two parents raised £60,000 in their son's memory



**A HOME OF HIS OWN**  
Providing housing and financial support to a veteran in need



## MY UNSUNG HEROES

# CELEBRATING FOUR GENERATIONS OF NOBLE SERVICE

### Squadron Leader Mike Waring follows in the footsteps of his father, grandfather and great grandfather.

Mike Waring has been in the RAF for over 23 years, but his family's connection stretches back much further. As the RAF Benevolent Fund enters our centenary year, Mike explains: "My family is distinctive for having four generations of RAF pilots.

"My great grandfather, Wada Pickard, was in the Royal Flying Corps and

transferred to the Royal Air Force when it was formed in 1918. He flew F.E.2bs in World War 1. My grandfather was in Bomber Command and flew Stirlings. Like so many of his Bomber Command colleagues, he paid the ultimate sacrifice and was killed whilst flying over Norway on 1st January 1945. My dad served in the RAF for an impressive 36 years, most of which was spent flying helicopters and he retired as a Squadron Leader – I couldn't be more proud of how devoted he's been to his service."

**"If you cut us in half, my family would be red, white and blue."**

The RAF Benevolent Fund has also played an important role in the lives of Mike and his family: "My grandfather died when my grandmother was three months pregnant with Dad. It must have been an awful time, but the RAF Benevolent Fund helped her give him all the things she wanted to as a mother. They paid for my dad's education and covered his gliding lessons and flying licence, which had such a massive impact on what he then chose to do with his life."

"The Fund continue to help my family today. I have a daughter who has special needs and they give us support every year. The Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund is integral to mine and my family's time in the RAF, and I want to say a big thank you to them and their supporters".



**WADA PICKARD**  
GREAT GRANDFATHER  
Served in the RAF  
1917-1920



**FREDDIE WARING**  
GRANDFATHER  
Served in the RAF  
(KILLED IN ACTION)  
1942-1945



**DAVID WARING**  
FATHER  
Served in the RAF  
1964-2000



**MIKE WARING**  
SON  
Served in the RAF  
1995-present



ABOVE: Mike Waring's grandfather, Freddie Waring, receives his Flying Wings.



## REMEMBER SOMEONE SPECIAL WITH A TRIBUTE FUND

A Tribute Fund is a special way to remember a loved one who served in the RAF. You can share stories about their life, post details about upcoming memorial services and make donations in their memory.

To find out more, visit [rafbf.org/tribute](http://rafbf.org/tribute)

## DISCOVER THE GREATEST RAF STORIES NEVER TOLD



The RAF's 100-year history is packed with incredible stories, from towering tales of frontline bravery to hilarious memories of mess hall mishaps. And who better to tell these timeless stories than the brave men and women who were there, and their friends and family?

Storylines, brought to you by the Fund, is a place for the RAF Family to share memories of their time in the RAF. Together, we can paint a richer picture of the RAF's 100 year history and take pride in our remarkable tradition of protecting the nation.

You can also sign up for our monthly email newsletter, where you can get

epic battles, budding romances and heartfelt dramas delivered straight to your inbox.

**Don't let the story of your service – or of someone close to you – be shut away in a drawer. Share your story with us on Storylines today.**

Visit [storylines.rafbf.org](http://storylines.rafbf.org)



## ROAD TO RECOVERY

# A DIFFERENT KIND OF COURAGE

**When twelve-year-old Tia Carter's mother passed away suddenly, she found solace and support in the RAF Family.**

Tia's parents were both serving at RAF Brize Norton when the unthinkable happened. Her mum Joyce passed away when she was only ten years old. In the wake of this, Tia, her brother, Tyler, and her father, Wayne, had to cope without her in the home they once shared with her.

Tia has been a member of the RAF Benevolent Fund's youth support programme, Airplay for several years. This programme, which is funded thanks to the generous donations we receive from supporters like you, helps children tackle the unique challenges that come with being in an RAF Family – such as moving around

a lot and being away from a parent for long stretches at a time. It also gives them a place to have fun and take part in activities.

By giving RAF children and young people the facilities and activities they deserve while living on an RAF base, our hope is that Airplay will take some of the strain off RAF personnel and their partners, whether at home or on the front line.

After her mother died, the Airplay sessions became even more important to Tia and her family. They gave her a place where she could share her feelings and just be a child again.

Tia says: "I really like going to Airplay – I get to do lots of fun stuff. I really miss my mum and sometimes I get upset but I know I can always talk to the youth workers and they'll listen to me and try to help. Airplay helped me to get loads of things off my chest that I haven't been able to tell my dad or my brother."

In recognition of her remarkable courage during an incredibly difficult time, last year, Tia was chosen to



LEFT: Tia and her mum.

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**2,030** children take part in Airplay each year thanks to supporters like you.



perform the Coin Toss at the Wimbledon Women's Final (pictured above) where she also met the Duchesses of Cambridge and Sussex.

"The best part of the day for me was performing the Coin Toss as the atmosphere was amazing, but I also loved meeting the Duchesses. I will never forget the whole experience. I hope my mum was watching down on me and that I made her as proud of me as I am of her" Tia says.

**"Airplay has not only been a place for Tia to express herself, but it has also been somewhere she could be a child again, and get involved in all the activities."**

**– Wayne Carter, Tia's dad**

The RAF Benevolent Fund could not be more proud of Tia and her bravery following such a difficult time. She is a truly remarkable girl.

## CARING FOR OUR OWN

# FROM HOMELESS TO HOPEFUL

**When we first met Chris Wilby, he was struggling to get by. Find out how you have helped him take back control of his finances and make his own way in life.**

Former Corporal Chris Wilby travelled all over the world during his 16 years of service– from the frozen wastes of Alaska to the scorching plains of South Africa. He really enjoyed his time in the RAF, and saw his fellow brothers and sisters-in-arms as family.

But sadly, this dutiful veteran has faced serious financial problems in later life. After losing his business, he was left without a proper home for months, living in his van and workshop. In the end, he was staying in temporary accommodation when Wales Homes for Veterans referred him to us.

Thankfully, with the help of kind people like you, we have been able to give Chris long-term financial support. We enabled him to move into his own

flat in Carmarthenshire by helping out with the furniture and kitchen equipment costs, providing him with a permanent, stable home after so much uncertainty and fear.

Chris also suffers from acute heart disease and depression, so last year, Jennifer Kelly and our Individual Grants Team helped him acquire the disability support he needs to make ends meet and stay healthy. After putting together his case and representing him at the appeal, he now gets an extra £150 a week in benefits – and was paid a staggering £6,500 in back payments.

With a steady income and a comfortable home, Chris can now live independently and contentedly – free from the money worries that plagued his past.



**"My new flat has everything I could ever want in a home. I'm now happy as Larry – and really can't thank the Fund or Jennifer enough."**

**– Chris Wilby**

In our centenary year, we are making a commitment to support more people than ever before through our welfare services and activities. We intend to double the number of RAF Family members we help to 100,000 people by 2021.



**To help us reach more veterans, personnel and their families with high quality care and support, please turn to the attached donation form.**



**“Tragically, there are still so many veterans out there who are not on our radar. We want them to know that, no matter what they are going through, the Fund is there to help them pull through – just like a real family.”**

– Matt Rowe, Community Engagement Worker, Cambridgeshire

## STRONGER TOGETHER

# NO ONE SHOULD HAVE TO FACE THEIR BATTLES ALONE

**If you or any one you know is experiencing loneliness or isolation, our new Community Engagement Workers are here to help.**

The RAF Family is getting older every year, and with around a million members over the age of 65, many veterans are now battling loneliness. In our recent survey, we identified loneliness as one of the greatest challenges faced by an estimated 85,000 older members of the RAF Family – and this number is likely to grow year on year.

That is why, in our 100th year, we want to reach out to more people than ever before. With our new Community Engagement Worker scheme, we can help RAF veterans, widows and widowers lead more sociable lives in their twilight years. This pilot scheme is working in four counties in East England: Lincolnshire, Cambridgeshire, Norfolk and Suffolk.

Our Community Engagement Workers will learn about the social activities, groups and associations in their county, and use that knowledge to help individuals be more involved in their local community through new hobbies and interests.

Ultimately, the scheme exists to provide more proactive, one-to-one support to older members of the RAF Family – helping them stay happy and connected to the people around them well into the future.

**To get in touch with us or to find out more about all the different services we offer, please call us on 0800 169 2942 or email [welfareservices@rafbf.org.uk](mailto:welfareservices@rafbf.org.uk)**

## WIN A TIMELESS MEMOIR OF THE GREAT ESCAPE



**On the 75th anniversary of the Great Escape from Stalag Luft III, we are offering you the chance to win one of two extraordinary memoirs.**

You could win one of ten copies of either Jens Muller's or Bram Vanderstok's hair-raising accounts of their escape from the Prisoner of War camp. They were two of only three men who successfully broke out on March 24th 1944, and over the years their exploits have become a wartime legend thanks to the film, The Great Escape.

You can also buy the book directly from Pen & Sword Books with a 30% discount by calling 01226 734222 and using the code ESCAPE30 – 15% of proceeds will go to the RAF Benevolent Fund.

**To enter the draw, visit [rafbf.org/big-draw](http://rafbf.org/big-draw) or write with your full name and address to: The RAF Benevolent Fund Big Draw, 67 Portland Place, London W1B 1AR. Closes 31st May 2019.**

## FUNDRAISING CHAMPIONS

# 60,000 REASONS TO SAY THANK YOU

**After their son tragically passed away during service, Chris and Sue Beadel devoted themselves whole-heartedly to raising money in his memory.**

The Beadel's are a true RAF couple: Chris has served as a Physical Training Instructor for 35 years, and Sue served as a medic in the mid-1970s. So it was natural for their son, Simon, to follow in his parents footsteps. At 18 years old, he became an RAF Physical Training Instructor himself.

While at home on leave, Simon started feeling unwell. He was diagnosed with a mild lung infection, but a couple of days later he took a turn for the worse. He was rushed to hospital with double pneumonia – and died not long afterwards with his parents at his side.

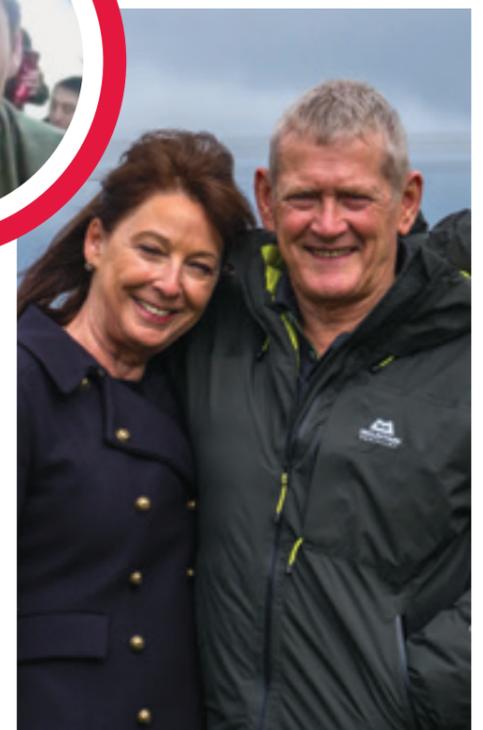
Sue says, “We went into a very dark tunnel that day. No one expects to lose a child, but when we did, the Fund were there for us. It felt as if they had dropped everything to help us, so we wanted to give something back.”

The RAF Benevolent Fund arranged for Simon to have a military funeral. Because

of the support they received, Sue and Chris decided to raise money for the Fund in Simon's memory. Through a whole host of activities – including a huge ball – they have raised an incredible £60,000. They also show no signs of slowing down and will be leading three teams of 10 to take on the Yorkshire 3 Peak Challenge in June this year.

We are so grateful to Sue and Chris, and everyone else who helps make our vital work possible. Thank you.

**“You don't have to go through something like this to raise money. The RAF Benevolent Fund will always be there for the RAF, it's our family.” – Chris Beadel**



Last year almost **200** people received bereavement support through our partnership with Cruse Bereavement Care.



## FEELING INSPIRED?

If you'd like to help raise money for the RAF Benevolent Fund, you can find tips and ideas at [rafbf.org/get-involved](http://rafbf.org/get-involved)