

Annual Review 2011/12



**Royal Air Force
Benevolent Fund**
THE HEART OF THE RAF FAMILY



'Times have certainly changed for the Royal Air Force. Yet one crucial element, I believe, will never change and that is our tradition. The courage, devotion to duty and honour of those who serve endure through the most challenging times.'

The finest traditions endure

Reading through this Annual Review, I am delighted to see how we helped guide the Royal Air Force family through what was undoubtedly a testing year.

At a time of widespread restructuring, our hard-pressed Service personnel were called upon to do even more in defence of our freedom. The RAF participated in another long and demanding campaign, this time in Libya, as well as maintaining high-intensity operations in Afghanistan and long-term global commitments such as the Falkland Islands.

RAF personnel met all the demands that were made of them with courage and patience, despite the most unforgiving conditions. The Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund, in turn, was there to help wherever we could, spending £5.4m over the year supporting the serving RAF against a background of continuing economic turbulence.

Of course, we were there to support those who have left the Service too, providing the support our veterans need to lead dignified, independent lives. We are the RAF's leading welfare charity supporting all generations of the RAF family, and we proved our commitment to our veterans again during 2011 by spending £15.6m in support of their needs. My grandfather would have been proud to see how the Air Force he founded has worked with its Benevolent Fund through such difficult times.

I think he would have been equally satisfied to see how our stewardship of the RAF's legacy has come full circle. Just as he oversaw the construction of the RAF Memorial on Victoria Embankment, this year I will have the privilege of witnessing the unveiling of the Bomber Command Memorial in Green Park, a deserved and long overdue tribute. The sacrifice of the brave young men who perished in defence of freedom too often goes

unrecognised, and it is our great honour to be charged as guardians of the Memorial, maintaining it for future generations.

55,573 young men died flying with Bomber Command, a great deal more than serve in the entire Service today. Whilst still a very potent force, the RAF is smaller than at any time in its history – yet as the charity of all the RAF generations, the call upon our services continues to grow. That is why your support is more important than ever, and I thank all of you who contribute to our work through fundraising and volunteering for your continuing enthusiasm and commitment.

I would like to pay tribute to Air Marshal Sir Rob Wright, who will shortly step down after five and a half years in post as our Contoller. The Fund has benefitted enormously from his exemplary and inspirational leadership through a period of considerable change and against a background of very difficult economic conditions. We will miss him greatly and wish him well for the future. I look forward to welcoming Air Marshal Chris Nickols, who joins us as our new Contoller in July.

Times have certainly changed for the RAF. Yet one crucial element, I believe, will never change and that is our tradition. The courage, devotion to duty and honour of those who serve endure through the most challenging times. Working together, we will be there too, ready to repay the Debt We Owe, our motto which is emblazoned on our Crest, to the remarkable men and women of the Royal Air Force.

The Viscount Trenchard of Wolfeton DL
Chairman of the Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund

Our goals in 2011

Despite the difficult economic circumstances, our loyal supporters still managed to raise over **£12m** of voluntary income as part of our overall income of **£18m**. However, we spent **£26m** supporting **60,000** members of the RAF family. Going forward, we need to expand our fundraising operation in order to meet any future shortfalls.

For a more in-depth look at the targets we set and our progress in meeting them, please see our full Annual Report and Accounts at www.rafbf.org/2011 or contact us at the address on the back cover to ask for a copy. Meanwhile, here's how we did against five goals we set out this time last year.

How did we do?



Install Airplay parks on at least 10 more RAF stations

In 2011, we installed Airplay parks at 11 RAF stations. Eight multi-use games areas, 19 play parks and five shelters for young people to meet, were opened at: RAF Cranwell, RAF Halton, RAF High Wycombe, RAF Honington, RAF Linton-on-Ouse, RAF Lyneham, RAF Marham, RAF St Mawgan, RAF Northolt, RAF Shawbury and RAF Valley.



Create a second welfare break cottage for the RAF family on the south coast

When serving personnel return from operations, all family members require a period of re-adjustment. Quality time together, away from the pressures of station life, allows parents and children to re-forge essential relationships. To meet this need, in 2011, we opened a second respite holiday cottage for RAF families on the south coast. See page 12.



Open a wing at Princess Marina House for people with mild dementia and their carers to have a break by the sea

In the autumn, Princess Marina House, our welfare break centre on the south coast opened a new wing called Beachside. The wing provides specialist care and holiday accommodation for RAF family members suffering from mild cognitive impairment and early-stage dementia.



Raise £10m to fund our services for the RAF family

Despite a prevailing atmosphere of financial uncertainty, our supporters came together to contribute an amazing £12.3m to fund all-round assistance and support for those in difficult circumstances.



Increase the number of RAF family members we help, directly and indirectly

In the face of economic turbulence, we worked very hard to reach out to support those people in greatest need. However, rising costs and tough conditions affected us and resulted in us being able to support marginally fewer people. We helped 61,054 people in 2010 and 60,447 in 2011.

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Standing ready to support former members of the RAF in need

2011: Our impact on the ex-RAF community

£15m+

helping former members of the RAF and their families.

37,388

people were given direct support from charities and organisations who received grants from us.

7,269

individual awards were made to former members of the RAF family who needed assistance.

372

motorised wheelchairs were issued.

1,463

people took a welfare break by the sea at Princess Marina House. 2,760 people also enjoyed a break at our respite homes, jointly owned with the Royal Air Forces Association.

2012: Coming up

It is predicted that by 2021 dementia will affect nearly one million people in the UK so we need to make provision for RAF family members who will be among that number. That's why we're now working with partners, including the Alzheimer's Society and the Royal Air Forces Association, to develop new services to meet this need.

The spectrum of services created by the RAF Benevolent Fund to help former members of the RAF and their families came under pressure in 2011. Rising costs and cuts in public services meant that already vulnerable veterans and their partners – many of them elderly, some unwell or disabled – faced even greater difficulty. We were ready to provide support in a myriad of ways, spending £15.56m supporting members of the retired RAF community.

Our investment in helping people claim any state entitlements they are due paid substantial dividends. We assisted individuals, many facing unforeseen difficulties from illness to redundancy, with applying for the appropriate benefits. In total, our Benefits and Money Advice Service, which we run jointly with The Royal British Legion through Citizens Advice, released a staggering £11.22 million into RAF family members' pockets since 2007.

In all, we awarded 7,269 grants, totalling over £9m for problems large and small, ranging from £40 to repair a wheelchair puncture to £6,000 for care costs for a terminally ill RAF wife and her children. Behind that substantial figure are the stories of thousands of individuals in often very distressing circumstances. Our help is there to alleviate immediate suffering and, where necessary, provide a new start in life.

Housing in special circumstances

The RAF Benevolent Fund's Housing Trust tripled the amount it spent on providing homes for members of the RAF family who have fallen on particularly difficult times. Those helped ranged from a Serviceman injured on active service to a couple caring for a child with a progressive illness.

Encircling the Coopers with support

How do you help a family under unimaginable pressure? Iraq veteran Craig Cooper had three daughters under three, including twins with cerebral palsy, when he was medically discharged from the RAF in 2009. Craig found alternative employment as an NVQ assessor. However, since his wife Leanne was making prolonged hospital stays with their most severely affected twin, Sophie, Craig was forced to give up work to care for twin Erica and younger sister Kyla. Debts mounted, and life in their cramped house became intolerable. It was then that Craig approached our Benefits and Money Advice Service for help.



www.rafbf.org/stories

*'We would never have got
this far without your help.'*

Craig Cooper



Leanne and Craig
Cooper at home with
their three daughters.

Craig says: "The RAF Benevolent Fund has been a lifesaver. Not only did they help us with our debts, they also bought us a four-bedroom home. Sophie, who needs 24-hour care, now has a downstairs bedroom and wet-room for hydrotherapy. The last few years have been very difficult. We've learnt that Erica, who has cerebral palsy, is on the autistic spectrum. Sophie, who has the worst kind of cerebral palsy, can now only be fed by a drip and has a high risk of premature death, so it's touch and go. We go to so many hospitals up and down the country, it's hard to keep count.

"The RAF Benevolent Fund has taken a huge financial burden off our shoulders. They don't just help with practicalities like travel costs and special equipment for Sophie, they also gave us a subsidised break at Seacot, their cottage on the coast. Sophie was five last year, and Prince Harry presented her with the WellChild Award for the 'Bravest Child in Britain'. I can't see how any of us would have got this far if it hadn't been for the Fund's support."

Sergeant Alex Ford blogs from the front line



Blogging from the frontline



Sergeant Alex Ford, otherwise known as 'RAF Airman', can frequently be found blogging from the front line in Afghanistan. Here he blogs from a different kind of front line...

Alex has long been a supporter of the RAFBF and proud to be a part of the RAF family. RAF tradition runs through his own family – both his father and brother served - amassing over 70 years' service between them. In fact, we helped Alex's father more than 60 years ago, paying towards childcare costs when his first wife died.

Alex now works as an Avionics Technician at RAF Benson and was recently deployed to Afghanistan to help the local population with recovery and reconstruction. He wanted to know more about where the money we receive goes and to hear the stories behind the grants we make on a monthly basis. So he joined a committee reviewing applications from former members of the RAF and their families for grants up to £15,000 (we also have a Main Grants Committee that meets regularly to consider applications for grants up to £150,000).

Alex told how he heard story after story of heartbreak, pain and suffering.

"I knew that such people existed, but their stories weren't made real to me. Until the other day... Sitting in the RAF Benevolent Fund's committee meeting, I heard the story of a 76-year-old ex-SAC whose house had been flooded. He was living with concrete floors, bare walls and no curtains. He gave ten years of his life to the RAF and I wanted him to be proud and happy again. I wanted him to know that the RAF still cares about him, that people who support the RAF still care about him. That YOU and I care about him. The Ben Fund gave him a grant that will not just buy some new soft furnishings and shut out the cold, it will also give him back some dignity... He might live alone, but he is not without a family."



Follow Alex's Blog

<http://rafairman.wordpress.com>

Twitter

@RAFAirman

'The Fund really does help turn people's lives around.'

Doug Vince: part of the family

**Just as the RAF is enduring and adaptable, so are we.
Just ask Doug Vince.**

Back in 1946, he returned from the war with severely burnt hands, and his arms and face affected as well. He had been injured flying back from an air raid over Germany when a German fighter followed them home. Doug's Stirling aircraft was shot down in flames. The pilot managed to land but flight instructor Doug, who had bravely grabbed a smouldering fire extinguisher to put out the flames, paid a high price. Back in the UK, he and his wife and new baby were about to be made homeless.

"We were facing the prospect of being out on the street," explains Doug. "I knew I was in trouble. I was one of McIndoe's 'guinea pigs', the airmen treated for burns by the pioneering plastic surgeon Archibald McIndoe. The Guinea Pig Club, where I made lifelong friends, put me in contact with the RAFBF 66 years ago and I'm still so grateful. They gave me £200 for a deposit to buy a house! That was a lot of money back then and I couldn't believe they'd given it to me. It made all the difference."

Almost seven decades later, we're delighted that Doug is now enjoying regular stays at Princess Marina House, the RAF Benevolent Fund's welfare break home by the sea. "It's a wonderful place," he says. "I enjoy walking on the front and catching up with my Guinea Pig friends. Even at the age of 89 I like to get out and about!"

*'They gave me £200...
It made all the difference.'*



www.rafbf.org/stories





Helping RAF families take the strain

Our impact on the serving RAF family

£5.4m

providing a range of services for RAF families.

322 awards

worth £1.2 million were given to RAF families in difficulty.

3,900

RAF children and teenagers benefitted from the Airplay programme on 28 stations.

73

Airplay youth workers running activity programmes at 28 stations.

600

serving personnel and their partners benefitted from 1,576 private counselling sessions with Relate, funded by us.

2012: Coming up

We will be investing £1.4 million in new Airplay childcare centre facilities at RAF High Wycombe and RAF Honington.



2011 saw a unique set of challenges for serving personnel and their families. Unprecedented spending cuts and continuing re-structuring meant that the RAF were expected to do more with even less. Meanwhile, the rising cost of living and reductions in state support were hitting RAF family budgets just as hard as civilian purses.

In the spirit of our third charitable object – to ‘enhance the morale and wellbeing of the serving RAF’ – the RAFBF spent £5.4m providing services to alleviate the pressure on serving families. The half day’s pay donated by 80% of the serving RAF, totalling £1.9m last year, contributed to the cost of these.

We were able to provide grants to help with many different problems, from an injured Serviceman or woman needing vital adaptations to their home, to a family needing help to care for a sick child. And serving families were able to take advantage of our fast-track Benefits and Money Advice Service, often visiting ‘surgeries’ set up on stations for this purpose.

Relieving financial pressures

But money worries are not the only thing serving families have to grapple with. The pressures of deployment continue to exact a toll on relationships, and 600 people used the Relate counselling service, which we fund, with 62% attributing their difficulties to operational deployment. We also doubled our capacity to offer affordable seaside breaks for families wanting to spend quality time together to recover from a period of deployment or separation. See page 12 for more about Shencot.

Strengthening family relationships

Sadly, not all relationships survive and divorced or separated parents who don’t have custody of their children often live in single accommodation where they can’t have their children to stay. So we invested £75,000 in refurbishing a special house at RAF Brize Norton for children to spend weekends with the separated parent in a comfortable, homely environment.

Mike Goody: fighting spirit

Senior Aircraftman Mike Goody was injured on his first tour of duty in Kandahar in 2008 when his patrol was hit by a roadside bomb. Trapped under his vehicle for three hours, he sustained severe injuries to his leg. After 14 operations over two and half years and the prospect of more operations with no guarantee of success, he had an elective amputation.

“When I had my prosthetic limb fitted, it actually improved my posture and mobility. It meant I could concentrate on the future.

“But having been self-reliant from the age of 18, losing my independence was a crushing blow for me. My Warrant Officer told me to get in contact with the RAFBF and that put me back on track and started a new chapter in my life. The RAFBF helped pay for an automatic car so that I could get my independence back. They also refitted my house and have more recently funded an Emergency Support Worker course that will support me in my studies to train as a paramedic.

“People might see me as being disabled because of my leg. If anything, I’d say I’m more able and more enthusiastic to go away and do stuff since I’ve been injured. I’ve had a lot of people tell me I can’t do something or I won’t complete something. I like to go away, do it, complete it, and excel at it if I can and then tell them exactly what I’ve done. Then move on to another challenge and do exactly the same with that.”

*‘It’s amazing not to be
dependent on anyone at home.
My confidence has shot back
up and I’m full of plans.
I want to be a paramedic’*



www.rafbf.org/stories





Our matrix of support at RAF Waddington

How we supported serving personnel at RAF Waddington in 2011

£237,482

spent supporting serving personnel at
RAF Waddington.

.....
This includes:

£150,525

spent building a state-of-the-art multi-use games
area (MUGA) and play park.

£38,957

.....
to support serving personnel.

£42,500

.....
to fund Airplay youth workers.

£5,500

.....
for Lincoln and District Citizens Advice Bureau
to run outreach clinics.

*'The fortnightly visits
from Citizens Advice
have been a lifesaver for
many preparing for life
back on 'Civvy Street.'*

Louise Henton, Officer Commanding
Personnel Management Squadron (OCPMS)

Change and upheaval is a fact of life for many RAF serving personnel. By providing consistency between stations, our matrix of support is designed to take some of the strain off members of the serving community. We dropped in at RAF Waddington to learn about the impact our support is having on both parents and children.

Officer Commanding Personnel Management Squadron (OCPMS), Squadron Leader Louise Henton told us how services provided by the RAF Benevolent Fund are needed now more than ever.

"Fifty six of our personnel were affected by the first tranche of redundancies in 2011. Only half of them were voluntary. Three hundred personnel from RAF Waddington are in the frame for the second redundancy round, so they're dealing with a huge amount of uncertainty. The fortnightly visits from Citizens Advice have been a lifesaver for many preparing for life back on "Civvy Street", who are seeking advice on everything from housing and benefits to education.

"Personnel are also making use of the Relate service, funded by the RAFBF, which is a great facility to have, and we more than doubled the discretionary RAFBF grants (an award of up to £500 for emergencies, such as assistance with funeral costs) that we awarded. For example, through one of their grants, we've been able to help one young man visit his severely sick mother on the other side of the country when travel costs would have been prohibitive."

Taking RAF children under our wing

John Ferguson, Community Development Officer, has a bird's eye view of the value of the Airplay programme, funded by the RAFBF.

"There are nearly 3,000 service personnel here and 1,500 families. We have personnel deployed to Afghanistan at short notice and the children know their parent is in danger. Or they might be sent to the Falklands for six months, which is a long time in a child's life.

"Some personnel spend 230 days of the year away, so the remaining partner effectively becomes a single parent. The way I see it, if the Service person can hear the family is happy and doing well when they make their weekly 20-minute phone call, they can concentrate on their 18-hour day without worrying about life back home.

"Our Airplay programme gives the parent here some time out. Many tell me they don't know what they'd do without it. The young people see it as fun or they wouldn't turn up. It's rewarding to see them achieve, gain social skills and grow in confidence. We build relationships too. We have children as young as eight coming to us because they're worried about a deployed parent. They sometimes decide to tell us because they don't want to upset the parent at home.

'We have personnel deployed to Afghanistan at short notice and the children know their parent is in danger. Or they might be sent to the Falklands for six months, which is a long time in a child's life.' **John Ferguson**, Community Development Officer



John Ferguson and
Louise Henton from
RAF Waddington

At RAF Waddington our 0-19 agenda is really important to us. Due to the type of aircraft we have here, we get some families on station for ten years or more, and we aspire to provide provision that our children and young people can access throughout their time here. Airplay is a crucial part of that, together with the Airplay nursery provision, run by the charity 4Children on behalf of the station.

"Truth is, I can't imagine RAF Waddington without Airplay and I can't imagine Airplay here without my indispensable youth worker, Kirsty. It's the RAF Benevolent Fund's involvement that has made the whole programme possible."

Support from all sides

In 2011 the RAF Benevolent Fund enjoyed generous support from donors ranging from serving personnel and other individuals who gave through monthly Direct Debit, all the way through to corporate donors and charitable trusts. Donations from fundraising and legacies exceeded £12m in total.



You can visit our new site at www.rafbf.org



The Murano glass Trollbead featuring the heart roundel logo. In the first two months of the bead going on sale, it raised £3,500 for our work.

Among our supporters were the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge who chose the RAF Benevolent Fund to be one of the charities to benefit from the Royal Wedding Gift Fund. We were delighted to receive £33,000 to help fund an Airplay Park at RAF Wyton.

A developing three-way partnership between the main single Service charities – the RAFBF, the Army Benevolent Fund and the Royal Navy and Royal Marines Charity – resulted in the three charities being featured on the 'Who Wants to be a Millionaire Remembrance Special', which raised £50,000 for the RAFBF and the British Military Tournament which raised a further £28,500 for our work. Both these events, and the associated publicity, expanded our reach and helped us connect with a much wider audience.

2011 saw the launch of our brand new website. In the six months since it was launched, the number of visitors to the site more than doubled, with online revenue increasing by more than 70%. We also won a prestigious PR Week Award for our 1940 Chronicle social media campaign, which we ran to mark the 70th anniversary of the Battle of Britain.

Our new lines of merchandise, including our exclusive heart roundel Trollbead, proved very popular, with revenue from sales through our online shop increasing by more than 400% compared to the previous year.

We ran a range of successful events, including our annual Gala Dinner, receptions at the Imperial War Museum and Edinburgh Castle, two events in Parliament and a number of golf days. Fourteen of our most loyal and influential supporters were initiated as RAFBF Ambassadors. We now have 23 Ambassadors in total.

We also provided support to three RAF Benevolent Fund beneficiaries who are training for the 2012 Paralympics by supplying essential kit to help them train for the 2012 Games. See their stories at www.rafbf.org/paralympians

'Without the unstinting generosity of the RAF family we simply wouldn't be able to provide the breadth and quality of the welfare services outlined in this Review. To each and every one of you, we say a huge thank you for what you do and raise on our behalf. We couldn't do it without you!'

Dean Benton, Director Marketing & Communications



Sergeant Dutch Holland (left) and celebrity John Thomson (5th from left) won £50,000 for the RAFBF.



Creating quality time for RAF families

The high operational tempo coupled with the added uncertainty of re-structuring inevitably takes its toll on RAF family life, with couples and families spending long periods apart. In response, we refurbished a second spacious seaside cottage to give RAF couples and families the opportunity to spend quality time together.



To find out more about booking a break at Shencot or Seacot, please contact:

Shirley Steeples

General Manager
T: 01903 788971 or
T: 01903 784044
E: shirley.steeples@rafbf.org.uk

Like our first seaside cottage Seacot, the new Shencot is a stone's throw from the beach, next door to our welcoming Princess Marina House welfare break centre on the Sussex coast. There are four bedrooms, so extended family can come too, and there's a large garden with a children's play area so children can play safely while parents unwind.

As is often the case with RAFBF support for the RAF family, Shencot is the result of many individuals and organisations working together to make it happen.

We'd like to thank...

Our sponsors, Airfix

Model-making company Airfix helped to renovate a 'Red Arrows' bedroom with a spectacular wall displaying nine ready-built Airfix Red Arrows Hawks flying in formation. Airfix supplied beds, bedding, curtains and furniture, plus a set of Corgi die-cast Red Arrows models, and a Scalextric set and Hornby railway for the loft playroom.

Darrell Burge, Airfix Marketing Manager said: "We are proud to support the RAFBF and the fantastic work they do. We believe our powerful heritage and links to the RAF over many decades means that we have the perfect opportunity to help promote the charity and, in turn, raise awareness and donations to the Fund."

Local businesses

Local businesses Reynolds, Howdens and Greenfield Gas Services donated furniture and fittings, including a stylish kitchen, whilst local carpet fitter Brian Burgess organised suppliers to donate the floor coverings free of charge and arranged for free fitting. Brian said: "It's great to be able to give something back to those who are there to protect us." Local landscapers helped create the garden play area, complete with a mini 'football pitch'.

RAF station volunteers

The refurbishment owes much to the handiwork of enthusiastic RAF volunteers. The RAF Wittering Mobile Catering Football Club pitched in, as did 230 Squadron who took a day out to help clear the garden.

Hundreds of people who sent money

Our wonderful supporters who send cheques or donate by monthly Direct Debit gave generously to our Shencot appeal, giving a total of £85,000 altogether.





www.rafbf.org/sea-cottages

'We were having a bit of a stressful time and needed a break to get away from it all. Shencot really was a home from home – the kids all had plenty to do in the house, they loved the playroom and all the games. We also went on quite a few day trips locally. We were able to leave everyday life behind.'

Junior Technician, Steven Porteous



Junior Technician, Steven Porteous, who is based at RAF Leeming, recently took a much needed week-long break at Shencot with his wife, Lorrinda and five children – aged between 6 -13 years!





Financial review

2011 Highlights

'It will come as no surprise that the RAF Benevolent Fund spent more on welfare than ever before.'

Nick Waring, Director, Finance & IT

£26m

Direct charitable expenditure in 2011

During 2011 direct charitable expenditure totalled £26.0m, £2.5m more than in 2010.

The effect of the global recession made for a tough year UK-wide in 2011. Budget cuts hit members of the RAF family hard, as bases were rationalised and personnel levels reduced, and everyone had to find more money just to stand still in the face of rising costs for fuel, food and other household bills.

Given this context, it will come as no surprise that the RAF Benevolent Fund spent more on welfare than ever before – £26.0m in 2011, which was £2.5m more than in 2010. To maintain the very high quality of care and support we offer to the ex-RAF community, and to ensure that younger members of the RAF family are getting the support they deserve through our Airplay programme, we dug into our reserves.

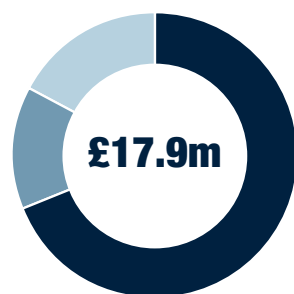
Prudent management in good financial years has enabled the RAFBF to build up these reserves for the difficult times we are all experiencing at the moment. This is why we were able to make the decision to spend significantly more than we raised in 2011, in response to the increasing needs of RAF family members. The result was that, as anticipated, free reserves fell by £21.6m to £66.7m by the end of 2011.

As ever, our supporters have remained incredibly generous and committed despite the economic climate. Voluntary income totalled £12.3m in 2011 and included £7.2m left to the RAF Benevolent Fund by people in their Wills. The serving RAF gave £1.9m through the half day's pay scheme, a testament to how valuable the RAF consider their Benevolent Fund to be. Total income for the year was £17.9m.

Nick Waring
Director, Finance & IT

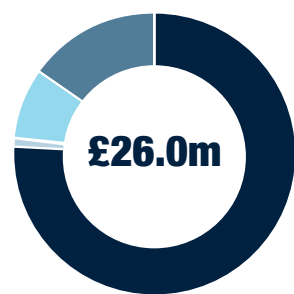
Disclaimer The summarised financial information shows the income raised from our activities, the cost of raising the income and the amounts spent on our charitable activities. The information is taken from the full financial statements. In order to gain a full understanding of the financial affairs of the charity, the full audited financial statements, Trustees' Annual Report and Auditor's Report should be consulted. Copies can be obtained from the Fund or they are available on our website www.rafbf.org

How we raised the money in 2011



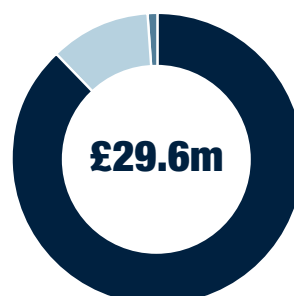
	2011	2010
Donations and legacies	£12.3m (69%)	£12.0m
Investment	£2.6m (14%)	£2.9m
Other income	£3.0m (17%)	£3.5m
Total income	£17.9m (100%)	£18.4m

How we helped others in 2011



	2011	2010
General welfare	£19.7m (76%)	£16.6m
Residential care	£3.9m (15%)	£4.4m
Housing	£2.3m (8%)	£2.4m
Education	£0.1m (1%)	£0.1m
Total direct charitable expenditure	£26.0m (100%)	£23.5m

Total expenditure of charitable funds



	2011	2010
Charitable activities	£26.0m (88%)	£23.5m
Generating funds	£3.2m (11%)	£3.3m
Other expenditure	£0.4m (1%)	£0.3m
Total expenditure	£29.6m (100%)	£27.1m

3,900

RAF children and young people supported by Airplay

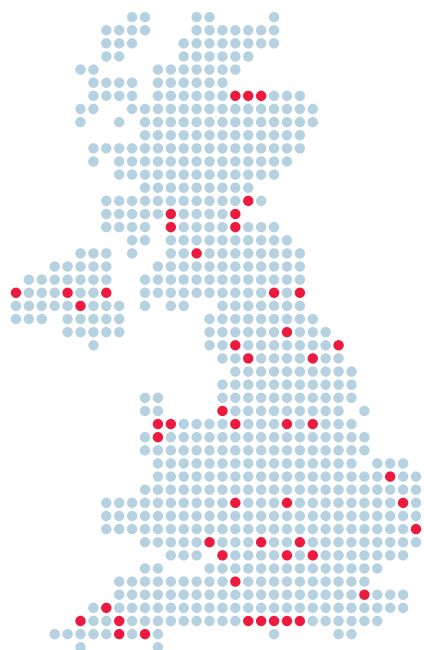


£11.22m

saved through debt relief

Since 2007 to date, we have helped 3,446 members of the RAF family save a total of £11.22m in unclaimed benefits and debt relief.

This was delivered through 50 Citizens Advice Bureau across the UK.



£5.4m

Supporting serving RAF personnel and their families

Providing services to help take the strain off RAF personnel and their families.



'These services will continue to provide crucial support for many years. Combined with our other work, we have created a true spectrum of care, supporting the entire RAF family from childhood through to old age.'

Signing off

This will be the last Annual Review produced during my five-and-a-half year tenure as Controller of the RAF Benevolent Fund. It has been a tremendous privilege to serve in this position and oversee what has been a transformative and exciting time for the charity.

During my time we have renovated our headquarters at Portland Place. This is to ensure that the RAF's leading welfare charity has a firm foundation as the hub, or heart, of the RAF family, so that we can support future generations more effectively.

We have expanded our fundraising operation significantly, setting up dynamic regional teams to provide a face for the Benevolent Fund on RAF stations and at fundraising events; a crucial step forward in anticipation of dwindling legacy income.

Most importantly perhaps, we have introduced a new charitable object, allowing us to better support the morale and wellbeing of the serving RAF. The new object has been a source of great personal satisfaction to me, allowing what we contribute to extend beyond simple benevolence.

Of course, our welfare support work is the bedrock of everything that we do, but with the new object in place we have been able to work proactively to improve Service life, working with the RAF to deliver support where it is most needed. I am proud to say that our childcare services, relationship support, Benefits and Money Advice Service and Airplay youth support programme were rolled out swiftly, efficiently, and effectively across the UK, in what was an innovative and challenging leap forward for a charity like ours.

These services will continue to provide crucial support for many years. Combined with our other work, we have created a comprehensive spectrum of care, supporting the entire RAF family from childhood all the way through to old age.

I am also very pleased that we have forged increasingly close links with other Service charities, working in particular with our tri-service partners, ABF The Soldiers' Charity and the Royal Navy and Royal Marines Charity, to deliver a safety net for the entire Armed Forces community. Our three charities are bound by the unique continuum of care which we all provide for Service families. Together, through events like The British Military Tournament and the Remembrance Special edition of 'Who Wants To Be a Millionaire?', we have witnessed tremendous support for our work.

We were also honoured to be chosen by The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge as one of the charities to benefit from their Wedding Gift Fund, receiving £33,000.

I look forward to the Queen's Jubilee celebrations this year. As our patron for 60 years, Her Majesty has personified the continuity of support we offer the RAF family. We also look forward to Her Majesty unveiling the Bomber Command Memorial. This occasion marks the handing over of the Memorial to the Benevolent Fund as we assume the role of guardians.

I would like to finish by thanking everyone who has supported us in the past or plans to do so in the coming year. Your enduring enthusiasm has allowed me to play my part in guiding the charity through a period of considerable change with great confidence and, I might add, enjoyment. It has been a great honour to work with you all.

Air Marshal Sir Robert Wright
KBE AFC FRAeS FCMI – Controller