



The Newark Nimrod - The Pledge



In friendship and in service one to another, we are pledged to keep alive the memory of those of all Nations who died in the Royal Air Force and in the Air Forces of the Commonwealth. In their name we give ourselves this noble cause. Proudly and thankfully we will remember them

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From the Editor

Ladies &

Gentlemen,



It is with great pleasure that I'm bringing to you the next addition of The Newark Nimrod. After enjoying the previous additions it's clear I have some big shoes to fill after taking over from the previous editor Allan Hildage. So, before we go any further I hope you would join me in thanking Allan for his previous newsletters keeping us all up to date with everything RAFA and beyond. Thank you Allan! When creating this newsletter I wanted to keep to the framework Allan has created along with a touch of "Gaz". I hope you enjoy what lies ahead in this edition (and future editions).

I look forward to sharing the news of the branch and all things to help our amazing community.

Please enjoy, and thank you for welcoming me into this fantastic branch.

~Gaz Creswell - Nimrod Editor

The Newark Nimrod - Committee Members

Branch & Club Committee Members 2022/23



Newark & District Branch/Club



Branch Committee



Allan Hildage Trustee / Chairman



Jerry Flint Trustee /Deputy Chairman / Webmaster



Margaret Metcalfe
Trustee/ Treasurer



Paul Watson Trustee /Standard Bearer



Des Saint Trustee / Publicity, Media & Hon Welfare Officer



Gaz Creswell Trustee/ Editor



Robin Docksey Trustee, Branch & Membership Secretary

Club Committee



Jason Parker Chairman



Susan Parker Treasurer



Paul Tricket Committee Member



Bev Asman Committee Member



Michael Reilly Club Secretary

Honorary Life Vice-President



Dennis Atkins

Club Steward / Bar Manager



Lisa Wells

Foreword by the Branch Chairman



Dear Fellow Members,

Greetings Again, but this time from 'Downunder' and a picture of Sydney's marking of

Remembrance Day!



Well to say it's been a 'different' time since last writing is perhaps something of an understatement in my case. Since arriving in Australia our holiday has not quite been going to plan! Firstly I was laid low with a persistent chest infection and I spent most of the first week in bed but getting no better despite two courses of antibiotics. On the Friday I was going back to the GP (you can get an appointment here straightaway but it does cost \$95.00 (£50+) a time!) for a follow-up appointment, but became very feverish, developed a severe pain in my back that moved to my chest and thence my left arm. Yes, the onset of a heart attack!



The pain started at 10.00am and it was straight to A&E. Immediate triage on arrival, ECG, Ultrasound, CT Scan and then straight to Theatre to have a stent surgically fitted to a blocked artery. Surgery completed and at 1.00pm I was in bed pain free on the Coronary Care Unit for post-op recovery - 3 hours in total from start to finish. Still find it incredible and can't really believe it all happened?! (I'm sure that the NHS response would have been equally as good, timely and efficient??!)!

I have to say I was extremely well looked and after 3 days my 'parole' was approved to go home with a regime of drugs for sometime to come and instructions for a complete change of lifestyle to de-stress my life(more of that below!) Most importantly, the prognosis for a full recovery in the longer term is looking good!

I am pleased to report that after nearly 4 weeks in recovery and Cardiac Rehab, I am making progress and feeling fitter as each day goes by. As you can probably imagine this has been a real and unexpected 'wake up call' and just goes to show that you never know what's around the corner? I'm just pleased and grateful to still be here – certainly better than the alternative?

Carpe Diem!

The Newark Nimrod - Foreword from the Branch Chairman

Given my close shave with the grim reaper, I recognise the need for a change to a less stressful lifestyle without any undo stress or aggravation. Thus, it would be foolish not to follow the 'Dr's Orders' (and more importantly Barbara's!) to adopt a more relaxed approach to life and spend more time with the family concentrating on enjoying what time I have left! (Sounds very maudlin, but I really am feeling positive and upbeat!) Having taken stock it is with great regret and reluctance, I have decided to step down as Branch Chairman at the AGM in February 2023. Until then I will now very much be taking a 'back seat' and concentrating on my recovery to more robust health (lazing on Bondi Beach helps!). The timing could have been better particularly with the impending sale of our premises and the consequent transition arrangements to be made, but as you'll see from my separate Progress / Update Report later, Jerry Flint and the Team have this in hand!

You will also see that much has already been done in preparation, with still yet more to come with not least the disposal of 40+ years of collected, donated and loaned pictures, memorabilia etc. If you haven't already responded to Robin Docksey's request and you wish to have an item returned please do so ASAP and by 12th December at the latest. There is already a stall in the Branch where books and smaller items are available and can be purchased with a charitable donation. The larger and more valuable items no longer required by the Branch will be auctioned / sold at a later date yet to be determined.

Whilst this has all been going on, the Branch has continued to be represented at the seemingly numerous parades, dedications and commemoration services of recent days that will no doubt be covered later? However, before moving on it would be remiss not to thank James Scott our RAFALO and stand-in Standard Bearer, on his departure on posting for his dedicated support to the Branch over the past couple of years. Good luck on your new tour James and best wishes for the future! I understand that negotiations are already in progress to appoint a new RAFALO – no pressure Gaz!

Recognising closure of Club and the handing over of the premises will mark the end of an era. but perhaps more importantly, it presents a most exciting time for the Branch and the opportunity for a new beginning. When no longer tied by the administrative diversion to overseeing a Club and without the financial constraints of maintaining a building, we can concentrate our efforts on delivering our charitable aims for the benefit of our members as is our raison d'etre. I really believe that this is a time that will mark, with your support, the rise and return of the Branch to its former level of success and indeed beyond?!

As this will be my last Chairman's Foreword in the Newark Nimrod, I would like to take this opportunity, if I may, to thank my fellow Trustees and you the members all for your help, support and encouragement during my brief tenure as Branch Chairman and wish you all continued success for the future.

I suspect your Christmas weather may be somewhat cooler than mine? But wherever you are I send you and yours every good wish for the festive season.



Merry Christmas!



The Newark Nimrod - Remembrance Sunday

Remembrance Sunday

A day that can bring painful memories but also pride, courage and joy all in a short space of time.

This day was my first Remembrance Parade in Newark and I have to say it is something I am already marking on the calendar ready for next year.

The turnout was a lot more than I was expecting and it felt great to be a part of it.

The day started at the club for some refreshments before the parade formed up to make its way to the war memorial at St Mary Magdalene Parish Church.

Leading the way were the Standard Bearers and our very own Paul Watson carried the RAF Association Standard showing the rest of them how its done!



The ceremony was flawless and everyone involved would have made the fallen extremely proud, not just the large amount of people who came to watch and pay their respects.

2 minutes of silence fell among all involved and all you could hear was nature.

Afterwards wreaths were laid to mark respects from different people, companies and charities involved in the ceremony.

Jerry Flint our vice-chairman, and currently acting Chairman in Allans absence, laid the wreath for our Branch and Club. The ceremony continued and when it was over the parade formed up to continue to the Town Hall.

Now, I have a confession to make at this point.....

With this being my first attendance to the parade I thought that was it, done and dusted, so I made my way back to the club only to realise later on that it did in fact continue at the Town Hall.

Oops. I guess I'll have to remember that one next year!







When I got back to the club with my family we made use of the bar and took the opportunity to soak in the atmosphere. I also joked that this is probably one of the few times a year where it's acceptable to be sat with a pint in your hand by half 11! (Not the children of course!)

The Newark Nimrod - Remembrance

Remembrance Sunday (Continued)

The smaller room had some great refreshments and food on which we went through to "sample" after our beverage. It was here I was then joined by the returning participants of the parade.

Below are some more pictures from the day. Dont forget to check out the website (rafanewark.co.uk) to see Jerry Flints article for more pictures. The Newark Advertiser also got some great pictures from the day.











Overall I personally had a great day and I believe all that were involved did as well. This couldn't have been made possible without the dedication of all involved. The people who took the extra time for the parade and the ceremony. The bar staff in the club and the volunteers in the branch room.

Thank you all for your kindness and dedication for the day you did everyone proud. I look forward to seeing everyone involved again next year. Thank you.

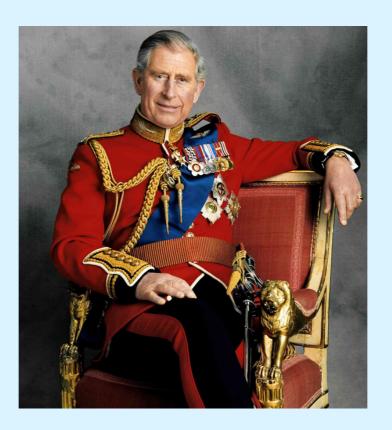
They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old: Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning

We will remember them.

The Newark Nimrod - Happy Birthday Your Majesty

Happy Birthday Your Majesty

His Majesty King Charles III celebrated his birthday earlier this year on the 14th of November This date saw The King mark his 74th birthday and his first birthday since becoming King. It is also likely that we will see The King have a second birthday next year in June. This has also happened during the reign of King Edward VII where his birthday was also November but they moved the parade to June for the chance of better weather.



Did you know...

The King is also a fan of Lancashire based Burnley Football Club? He is also a qualified pilot and diver (I think they are separate qualifications)







The Newark Nimrod - Progress Report from the Chariman

Progress Report from the Chariman



As you will be aware, at the Special General Meeting of the Club on 13th October to discuss its future, it was resolved that the Club committee be empowered to dissolve/close the Club at a date in the future not exceeding 6 months from the date of the meeting. This was to allow HQ RAFA the time to negotiate with the BNA Charity as the potential buyers of the premises. Background information about the Charity can be found online at:

https://register-of-charities.charitycommission.gov.uk/charity-search/-/charity-details/5136043/full-print

You will recall from previous correspondence that BNA are keen to form a Newark Services Club' to serve as a social hub for all Armed Services Veterans and Emergency Services' personnel and expressed an interest in buying our Branch & Club premises in their entirety with additional sufficient funding to facilitate the total refurbishment of the premises. From subsequent discussions, BNA stated that it was their intention to lease the actual running of premises to a new charity with Trustees appointed from each of the user stakeholders, e.g. RAFA, RBL, NPF, RN Assn, Newark Police, Fire, EMAS to act as the management board for the new hub to oversee its operation and ensure the interests of each organisation are maintained.

It has been the stated BNA intention that all efforts should be made to ensure as seamless transition as possible with the minimum of disruption and this is the premise that we have been planning for and working towards.

The Newark Nimrod - Progress Report from the Chariman

Progress Report from the Chariman (continued)

Whilst the new charity has yet to be established, a meeting is being arranged with BNA, some potential Trustees representing Army, NPF & RN Assn of the new Club with Jerry Flint and Lisa Wells looking after our continuing RAFA Branch interests. There are important interests that we need to discuss and hopefully resolve including the transference of: fixtures and fittings not included in the building sale; employed staff under TUPE arrangements; the Licence for the sale of alcohol and existing Club stock, etc... We will need to also discuss and clarify the situation over already made private room hire bookings and will be offering to continue running our Wednesday & Saturday Coffee Mornings to help with the transition.

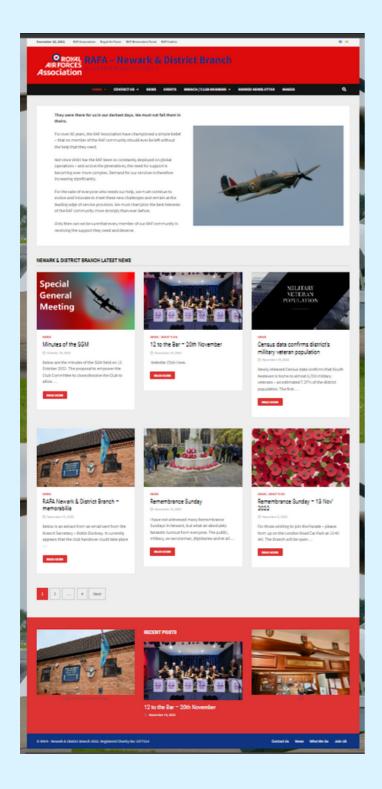
Obviously, there is still much to be done, but please rest assured that Jerry and the 'Teams' will be doing everything possible to protect the interests of the Branch and our members moving forward. Also, our Branch will need to nominate a volunteer Trustee for the new charity to protect and ensure our Branch's interests. Once we are advised that the sale has been formally agreed and we have resolved the transference issues, the Club Committee will be able dissolve the Club and hand the building to the Branch for disposal by HQ RAFA as the owners of the building.

Not so much the end of an era, but a new beginning......



The Newark Nimrod - Branch & Club Website

Branch & Club Website



Just a reminder...

We are aware that not everyone is on Facebook which is where we have our own group for updates and news. So Jerry Flint has stepped forward to build a website for the Branch to have a centralised point for all things RAFA and Branch related.

You will also find this newsletter on there along with past additions to look back through should you wish. You can also download and print at home if your prefer.

There are regular updates, articles and dates to keep you in the loop which I believe will serve great during the closure of the club as mentioned in Allans article just before this one.

There is more in the pipeline for how we plan to use this as a tool for our members going forwards so be sure to visit the website regularly so you dont miss anything!

Visit:

www.rafanewark.co.uk

The Newark Nimrod - Internet Safety Tips

Internet Safety Tips

It's that time of the year where we're all looking to buy our friends and loved ones gifts to put under the tree. Unfortunately its this time of year where we also need to remain extra vigilant when it comes to what we do online. Unfortunately scammers can be clever people who use othervpeoples good nature and curiosity against them. But do not fear! Here are some hints, tips, and tricks to help you stay safe over the coming holidays (and for the future).

1. Dont click on a link unless you are 100% sure you know who it's from

These links can come in emails, text messages, private messages on social media and any other form of communication. If you think it might be legit but you are still unsure go to virustotal.com. You can **copy** (dont click to open it) and paste it into the site and it will check the link for you (for free) to make sure there is nothing harmful

2. Check who the emails are from

It is easy to create a name for your email account these days. I could have an email address of "theNimrodRocks@hotmail.com" but I can change the From area to say Mr G Creswell Scammers do this to fool you into thinking the email is from a legit business. For example, in the from area it could say "Amazon Deliveries" but when you clik on it you will see the email address is "amazondeliveries@gmail.com". This is a good sign its a fake as professional business emails come from the company domain. What I mean by this is lets say amazon dfid message you, the email address will end in @amazon.com or @amazon.co.uk. A full address could look something like "deliveries@amazon.co.uk" not from a personal address like gmail, yahoo, msn etc

3. Does the spelling and grammar look right?

Some of the scammers are located abroad and English might not be the first language. Check the spellings look right and the grammar is correct.

4. Are there images that look blurry or pixelated?

Scammer will copy and paste images from a website where as a legit website will have the image from the company in their signature block. Make sure the image is an up to date logo and that it looks crystal clear. Businesses spend time to look professional and legit.

5. Are there multiple recipients?

Scammer dont like to pay for anything. If you send something from a personal account (like hotmail, gmail etc) and you send it to multiple recipients you will see a list of these in the CC or To area of the email. Professional marketing software will not leak the email addresses of other recipients in the email due to data protection.

How Your Environment Creates Personal Success



The environment has a powerful impact on who you are and who you become.

It can be used as a tool to empower you, not only in the moment, but throughout the rest of your life as long as you're willing to understand how meaningful your surroundings are. I've heard Dan Pena (an incredibly successful business man) on many occasions state "Show me your friends and I'll show you your future". If you surround yourself with successful people (even better if they're more successful than you are) then you can pick up the habits of success.

Success leaves clues, especially on the trail behind the successful.

You may be thinking but I don't know anyone successful but you don'thave to know people directly. Look at your social media profile. How many successful people do you know that are on your friends list?

Look at the pages you follow. Think about people who you would class as successful and follow their pages.

Notice the habits, the work, the focus and the consistency. Use this as a model. Model the behaviour and model the success.

Their is no such thing as "overnight success" but what's important is to think successfully. You need to truly believe in what you are setting out to achieve and the passion is what will make it easier when you face those tough days where you don't feel like moving forwards. If you want to create a change in the moment pick up some headphones and listen to podcasts, audiobooks or audio courses from people who have been where you are.

Discover their story and apply those lessons into your own situation.

Don't be afraid to cut the negativity. If you have friends on there that stops you from posting about what you want to achieve then remove them.

Learn that you are in control of your happiness, future and ultimately your life. It starts with a decision.

Decide you are going to empower yourself.

Focus on those thoughts on success.

Create the journey towards personal success





The Newark Nimrod - About the Editor

About the Editor



Hello again!

I hope you're enjoying the newsletter so far.

I wanted to squeeze in a page to introduce myself a bit more for those that don't know me. I'm Gary "Gaz" Creswell and I've only recently started getting involved with this great club and branch here in Newark.

I moved to Newark just over 5 years ago with my wife and children while I was still serving. My service has totaled 12 years and has spanned over two services.

My first service was in the Army. I joined the Royal Signals (a scaley back) first and this saw me posted over the UK and across to Germany. I also spent some time in Afghanistan. My trade was an Area Systems Operator (like BT on the move) and I learnt this skill at Blandford after completing basic training at Lichfield. I later retraded to something called an Information Systems Engineer (computer geeky network stuff). I enjoyed this trade and it was something excited as it was very new at the time. I was part of a pilot scheme to take people that were interested in computers and train them up to a standard within the squadron ready for a re-



When I left the Army I used these skills to work with cash registers where I would program them and install them all over the UK. Skegness was a place I saw a lot of leading up to the holiday season. After being made redundant once and having to take a salary sacrifice to get back through the door I decided to have another bite of the cherry and join the Royal Air Force. I had been out longer than 18 months by the time I joined back so I had to do basic training again.



trade course back at Blandford.

"No problem" I thought. I will just keep my head down, be the grey man and just get to the other side. Or so I thought. Week 1 day 1 I was given the responsibility of senior man so was at the front for the entirety of basic training. I have to admit though I enjoyed the training this time around. I got to see both styles of training and saw not only why they are two different forces with the way they do things but also why they had to be this way. I finished basic training with the Dusty Miller award

The Newark Nimrod - About the Editor

About the Editor (continued)

which I felt proud of. This was an awarded for most willing to help others as voted for by their peers. I was proud of this because I entered a soldier (which had its advantages and disadvantages) but came out an Airman with soldier qualities. Over time I had realised which qualities worked for this new career and what didnt. At the graduation I was also given permission to propose to my girlfriend, now wife, Hannah (off parade, I didnt want to do it during and take away the focus on the others) which she said yes to....phew!

Phase 2 I found more of a struggle than Phase 1 if I'm honest but I got there! Here I learned the trade for Information Communications Technology Technician (ICT Tech). More to do with computers (and another geeky role). I pushed as best as I could as spent the first half of the course as course leader before they rotated around to give others the chance to lead a team. I came out the other side with the Silver Salvur Award. This is awarded for best overall trainee. I'm not showing you these just to show off, I have a point to this which I will cover later on.



From there I went to RAF Coningsby where I was worked for Ground Support Subsytems (GSS) which was part of the C4i squadron. This post had varied roles waiting for me. From shift technician, to hardware manager, to short notice deployment team member. A hard working yet reqarding few years. This also saw me with a 6 month tour to Minhad which was very different to the previous tour of Afghanistan (in a good way). During this time I married Hannah and we later on bought our house in Newark. I was then posted and this was where the time came to say goodbye once again (for good this time). With our house in Newark, my wife and children there, I was posted to North yorkshire and it wasnt viable to take the family with me. This turned me into a weekend father and husband which wasnt what I wanted to be to them. Knowing what I had signed up for in the first place I knew the RAF was no longer for me and I handed in my notice.

When I left I worked for G4S contracted under Lincolnshire Police as a Network and Security Specialist before I moved to a job in Nottingham as a Cyber Security Engineer. From here I built my way up to a manager in the company and now I maintain the documentation where needed.

In my spare time I am a trained Life Coach focusing on helping people to reach their personal success whatever that might be. It includes helping people with Anxiety, Depression, PTSD, Motivation and so much more. You can find me at wellbeing events in Lincoln, Newark and Stafford (with more interest coming from other event holders next year so I could be going further afield. My aim is to get involved with Veterans and serving members but right now I'm happy to help people that need it.

The Newark Nimrod - About the Editor

About the Editor (continued)

I've also managed to create an online academy (The Life Improvement Academy) where I keep my courses to help people ranging from free to subscription based.

I enjoy weight lifting (although covid got the better of that so I'm just getting back into the swing of things), a little gaming time on the xbox, meeting friends and of course spending quality time with my wife and 2 daughters.

So, out of everything that has happened in my life why have I focused on those points that I have shared with you?

I wanted to show you that whatever I do, I give my best! I've taken over as editor and I have become more and more involved with the club/branch as the days go on. I have a lot more to give to this amazing club/branch and its members and I will continue to help build on what we have here already to serve in the best way I can.

Also, Keep your eye on the Facebook group as I recently hosted my first Facebook Live as a test run and will be hosting more in the coming months. This way we can all remain up to date with everything happening and can interact with one another too.

So to finish this article off (which I thought would be a quick 1 page "Hello") I look forward to taking on what ever challenging times maybe ahead for us all and I'll be here to help in any way I can. Whether that's with my computer skills, management skills, leadership skills, life coaching skills, or simply just being a friend to someone.

Thank you for such a warm welcome that I've already received from everyone and I look forward to getting to know you all further in the future.

Thank you Gaz



The Newark Nimrod - Christmas Fun!

Christmas Fun!

Ε	٧	Ι	Т	S	Ε	F	L	D	S	F	W	В	S	А
М	T	X	Υ	0	J	Ι	D	Υ	S	J	Υ	C	T	D
К	Ι	I	F	Ε	G	В	А	А	В	N	А	N	N	N
W	М	S	Ν	Н	K	D	F	J	Т	R	K	×	Ε	0
S	А	М	Т	S	I	R	Н	\subset	0	N	G	0	S	R
L	U	S	R	L	Ε	К	U	L	Q	J	А	W	Ε	Т
Ε	K	Q	0	Ε	Ε	L	S	Т	D	S	K	S	R	Н
R	W	Н	V	S	Ε	Т	М	Ν	Υ	Н	Н	\subset	Ρ	Р
Υ	L	I	М	А	F	D	0	Ε	S	Ε	G	М	D	0
J	Ε	S	U	S	Н	S	Ν	Ε	В	R	I	×	S	L
Н	F	К	W	F	М	М	V	Ι	Т	R	Ε	Ε	Ε	Ε
Υ	А	I	D	К	I	L	\subset	Н	Ε	Υ	L	Q	М	Н
N	N	В	×	Н	Ε	U	N	Н	J	R	S	Υ	А	Z
Ε	Ρ	I	\subset	М	I	N	C	Ε	Р	I	Ε	S	G	0
D	D	М	В	Ι	S	S	G	N	Ι	К	\subset	0	Т	S



carols
elves
games
lights
northpole
santa
stockings

turkey

chimney family holidays mincepies presents sherry tinsel wine christmas festive jesus mistletoe reindeer sleigh tree

What do you call Santa when he stops moving?

Santa Pause!

Who is never hungry at Christmas? The Turkey - he's always stuffed!

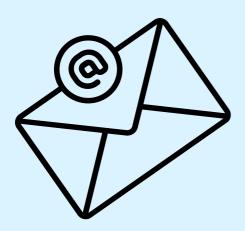
What did the Christmas tree do after its bank closed? It started its own branch.



Knock, knock!
Who's there?
Mary.
Mary who?
Mary Christmas!

The Newark Nimrod - What's on

Burns Night Invite



Please see the copy of an email sent to our Chairman, Allan from Nottingham RAFA regarding an invitation to Burns Night

Good evening Allan

I hope you're keeping well.

As Chair of Nottingham RAFA, I'd like to extend an invitation to you and your branch members to join the members of Nottingham RAFA for a Burns Night Supper on Saturday 28th January 2023. We will gather at 19.00hrs to be seated for 19.30hrs.

The cost of the traditional 3 course meal (vegetarian alternative available) will be £30 per head, which will include a tot of whiskey.

The meal will be held at The Royal Naval Association, 22 Church St, Lenton, Nottingham NG7 1SJ.

Tickets can be purchased from myself on 07960 460148. If anyone's interested, a swift response would be appreciated as I'll be opening the event up to non-RAFA people soon.

Any questions etc, please let me know.

kind regards

Marion Wells Chair, Nottingham RAFA





What's On?

Calendar Dates

6-31st December - Cinderella at The Palace Theatre

16 December - Branch Christmas Gathering

22nd - 31st December - Year of Play at National Civil War Centre

28 January - RAFA Nottingham Burns Night



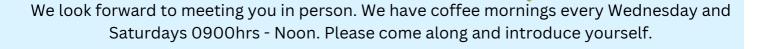
The Newark Nimrod - Welcomes & Thank You

Welcome & Thank You



Lets give a warm welcome to our newest members

Sarah Davis & Gail Dove





A huge thank you to everyone involved in raising money towards

The Wings Appeal.

HO has confirmed the branch has raised.....

£951.33

Well done! Each penny makes a difference to someone who needs help. And with this many pennies, that's a lot of help. Thank you!

The Newark Nimrod - Welcomes & Thank You

Welcome & Thank You



I hope you have enjoyed this edition of the Nimrod. Thank you to everyone who has contributed through stories, ideas, pictures, and many other ways.

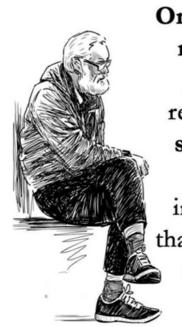
If you have any suggestions of what you would like to see in future editions then please get in touch.

If you have anything you would like to add to the next edition then please email me at gary@garycreswell.com.

Thank you



THERE IS NO SUCH
THING AS A GROUCHY
OLD PERSON. THE
TRUTH IS ONCE YOU
GET OLD, YOU STOP
BEING POLITE AND
START BEING HONEST.



Once you've matured you will realize that silence is more important than proving a point.

Boy aged 4: Dad, I've decided to get married. Dad: Wonderful; do you have a girl in mind?! Boy: Yes... grandma! She said she loves me, I love her, too....and she's the best cook & story teller in the whole world!! Dad: That's nice, but we have a small problem there!! Boy: What problem?! Dad: She happens to be my mother. How can you marry my mother!! Boy: Why not?! You married mine!!!!