

### **SHAPE British Summer Fete 17 June 2017**

The annual SHAPE British Summer Fete took place around the newly revamped festival tent at SHAPE on the 17<sup>th</sup> Jun under unusually (for us Brits) sunny weather. The day was a great success with many stalls and attractions including a Gurkha Military marching band; Morris dancing; bouncy castles and an obstacle course for the children; SAFFA cakes and a grand prize draw. On top of this the RAFA team at SHAPE, led by RAFALO's FS Matt Bowen and Sgt Richy Phillips ran a RAFA stall raising funds for needy servicemen and women and their families, past and present. The stall sold the traditional aircraft pin badges, RAF soft toys and charming flying RAF ducks as well as running a prize draw for a limited edition single malt Scottish whiskey. In all, over the five hour period, we managed to raise funds of 300 Euros. A big thank you must go to all those who took time out from their own afternoon and volunteered to do a stint on the stall, including Cpl Gordie Wilkie, FS Kim Jarvis and Mrs Lisa Phillips. The team's next outing should be the SHAPE festival in early September.

This event was the final swansong for FS Bowen as RAFALO at SHAPE, who has officially handed over the reins to FS Kim Jarvis. She will work alongside Sgt Richy Phillips to continue to fly the flag for RAFA, raising funds and carrying out duties on behalf of the Royal Air Forces Association. FS Bowen is soon posted to MOD Corsham to carry out a CIS Project Management role and hopes to continue his association with RAFA in the future. He would personally like to thank all those who supported RAFA during his tenure at SHAPE and wish every success to all those of the RAFA Belgium Branch, especially as they look towards a busy 2018, holding the prestigious 100 year RAF anniversary overseas conference.

FS Matt Bowen

RAFALO, SHAPE