

Cranwellian Historical Society - Charter

Aim

To provide direct, practical, reliable and consistent support principally to Cranwellians, but also to members of the general public, with a genuine interest in the history of the RAF College.

Background

Current Heritage and Library staff at the RAF College *inter alia* are responsible for maintaining a variety of College assets (e.g. books, photos, paintings, journals, silverware and other valuable artefacts), some of which have been donated or bequeathed to the College for safe-keeping. Historically, these assets have been stored with little exposure to Cranwellians or the general public, thereby missing an opportunity to celebrate the unrivalled heritage of the world's oldest military air academy. Following volunteer activity between 2017 and 2018 to restore and catalogue the contents of the College archive, the opportunity arose to engage with the general public through the internet and social media, to share College heritage globally and to enrich that heritage with the feedback from those who wish to share their own personal memorabilia from College days.

Enabling Objectives

In satisfying its aim, the Society voluntarily commits to the following enabling objectives:

1. As far as is practical, maintaining accurate records of College assets and alumni;
2. Where possible, responding to enquiries and alumni correspondence;
3. Archiving, researching and analysing College heritage data;
4. Promoting College heritage globally through a variety of enabling technologies, principally the internet;
5. Supporting the integration of like-minded organisations (including the Cranwellian Association (CA), the RAF Historical Society, Aircraft Heritage Centres, the RAF Museum, etc) to the benefit of the College's heritage;
6. Giving support, where practical and on a case-by-case project basis, to initiatives sponsored by any of the aforementioned like-minded organisations;
7. Editing and publicising articles provided by interested parties, for wider dissemination, including a web-based history of the College in time for the Centennial celebrations;
8. Managing the content of data on the internet, including an on-line record of College alumni, Entry & Course data and the passing of colleagues within the alumni;
9. Networking with Cranwellian alumni who are able to provide positive support in the gathering and presenting of College history on the website (www.oldcranwellians.info) and, where contact details exist, putting alumni in touch;
10. Contributing essential experienced manpower for marketing and administering Society initiatives.

Engagement Process

The Cranwellian Historical Society is entirely a volunteer organisation. It charges no subscription, but would welcome any donations to sustain the upkeep of enabling objectives set out above.

The Society's intention is to provide support from a number of 'selected' volunteers, who have pledged a consistent level of commitment. Volunteers will be selected carefully, identifying and mutually agreeing the type and level of commitment that will be delivered to the benefit of the College's heritage.

The Society will not enter any contractual obligation, preferring to volunteer contributions only through self-motivation and the personal passion of individuals who wish to uphold the heritage of the RAF College.

At no time will volunteer contributions to Society initiatives become a chore. Any individuals contributing to Society activities do so for personal enjoyment as the prime and only reward.