

Spring 2018

Air Cadet

 **ROYAL
AIR FORCE**
AIR CADETS
the next generation



Himalayan Venture 2018



RAF100 Takes Off
Shackleton Trophy Winners
The Fastest Car in the World ...
RAF Engineering Competition
80 Years of AIR CADET magazine



10



9

“Himalayan Venture 18 is going to be an incredible opportunity ... to bring together the wider RAF family to mount a truly adventurous expedition to an amazing part of the world.”



AirCadet

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Cover Image: Cadets training in the Cairngorms for Himalayan Venture 18.

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New Year's Honours

The New Year's Honours List has once again recognised those involved with the RAF Air Cadets as a range of extraordinary people across the UK.



In conjunction with the New Year's Honours List, the Chief of the Air Staff, the Deputy Commander and Air Officer Commanding 22 Group also offer their personal commendations for meritorious service.

MBE

Wing Commander
Edward Challoner

Squadron Leader
Thomas Martin McMorrow

CAS Commendation

Sqn Ldr N A Wilks

DCom's Commendation

Sqn Ldr J N Olver

Team Commendation

RAF Air Cadet Media Communications

AOC 22 Gp Commendation

Wg Cdr J Parsons
Sqn Ldr J R Brabner
Sqn Ldr E C Hetterley
Sqn Ldr J K Hudson
Sqn Ldr S A Hughes
Sqn Ldr P Mockeridge
Flt Lt G P Hayes
Flt Lt B N M House
WO (ATC) V S Moran

Team Commendations

Bedfordshire & Cambridgeshire Wing
Easter Camp Executive Team

Bedfordshire & Cambridgeshire Wing
Nijmegen Marches Support Team

RAF Air Cadet Music Services ■

Historic Milestone

Well, RAF100 is now well and truly here and I very much hope that all cadets, volunteers and staff are getting into the Centenary spirit and coming up with all sorts of imaginative ways to help our parent Service mark this historic milestone.

I am very much looking forward to members of the RAF Air Cadets supporting national and local events and I am sure there is much fun to be had along the way.

As for our year, what does 2018 hold for us? As I type, we are busy planning the Annual Convention – a highlight of each year when we gather all our senior staff and volunteers together for policy updates, presentations by external guests and some essential networking, not to mention a fabulous Dining-in night to celebrate all that is great in this organisation.

The year is already packed with cadet activity and I see regular updates on camp preparations, training development and competitions.

Work is already underway to identify the top squadrons and CCF (Sections) of the year, and I look forward to our Annual Awards Ceremony, when the top cadets and volunteers are announced.

I also look forward to the graduation of the latest batch of Junior Leaders and Qualified Aerospace Instructors and I know that many excited cadets are looking forward to participating in the International Air Cadet Exchange programme or perhaps travelling overseas on one of the major expeditions being organised this year, many subsidised by RAF100 funds.

Training is well advanced for the annual trip to Nijmegen for our intrepid road-marchers and other cadets are training for Ten Tors or other expeditions, including Duke of Edinburgh activity up to Gold.

I have already seen plenty of evidence of cadets gaining Air Experience Flying and whilst gliding remains in recovery, we now have five VGS sites operating and

more aircraft being cleared for flight every month.

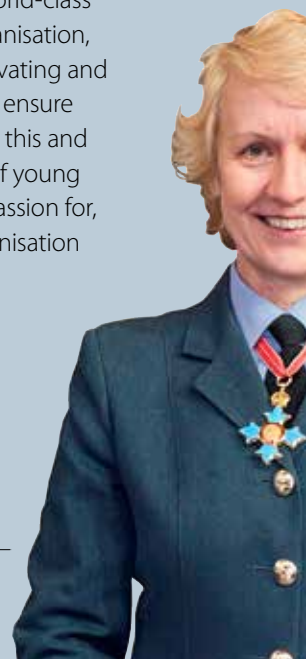
Blue aviation badges are gaining traction and the staff delivering simulated gliding on the Part-Task Trainers are doing a great job. Other staff and volunteers are hard at work preparing for the Aerospace, Drill & Ceremonial, Band, Choir and STEAM camps and the Super-Camp concept will be trialled again this year.

First aid training, fieldcraft, sport and shooting all continue to underpin core cadet activity and I never cease to be amazed by the breadth and depth of our syllabus and the dedication of the staff and volunteers who make it all possible.

On the strategic front, we will continue to explore options to enhance the parenting of RAF Air Cadet units and we are actively reviewing our unit footprint to ensure we have sufficient staff and suitable infrastructure to sustain us into the future. Several reviews will commence this year under the 2025 Strategy banner to ensure we are targeting our limited resources at the activities that best support our core objectives and are of benefit to as many cadets as possible.

We remain committed to providing all cadets and volunteers with the best experience we can and I know readers will understand that, if are to maintain our reputation as a world-class uniformed youth organisation, we have to keep innovating and embracing change to ensure we remain relevant to this and the next generation of young people. As ever, my passion for, and pride in, this organisation remain undiminished and I look forward to supporting you throughout 2018 for what promises to be another great year. ■

By Air Commodore Dawn McCafferty,
Commandant Air Cadets



BIG 80 for AIR CADET Magazine

AIR CADET magazine celebrates its 80th Anniversary this year and what a year with the RAF100 celebrations as well!

The publication was first launched in June 1938 as the Air Defence Cadet Corps Gazette – an innovative way of keeping cadets of the newly formed Air Defence Cadet Corps informed and educated.

Those first editions consisted entirely of official notices but as the magazine developed, so did the content.

Editions published in the Second World War carried a number of articles by Captain W E Jones, the famous creator of the ace pilot and adventurer "Biggles" as well as the serialisation of the book "Biggles Flies Alone".

Originally just 16 pages, the magazine has developed and evolved over eight decades – from a black and white newspaper to a full-colour glossy and in more recent years has been available online as well.

Although the magazine has a limited print run of (these days reducing to 30,000 copies) to make it cost effective and environmentally friendly, it has a much wider readership (450,000) and is even sent to our Royal Patron HRH The Duchess of Cambridge, every Member of Parliament and

Member of the House of Lords, senior police officers, clergy and businesses.

It is used widely for public engagement with copies in doctors' and dentists' waiting rooms and within the RAF copies can be

found in both Officers' and Sergeants' Messes as well as Station Hives.

Denise Parker, Head of Media Comms for the RAFAC and Managing Editor said: "The magazine has always been an important information 'vehicle' within the organisation.

"It plays a key role in keeping cadets, volunteers, permanent staff and all stakeholders up-to-date with news and policy changes.

"This year we celebrate the 80th Anniversary alongside the RAF's Centenary making it an extra special milestone. Yet again the magazine will capture events and chronicle the year as it unfolds, recording it for the future.

"Surviving across the decades the magazine has seen immense change. Back in the day, the magazine carried many educational articles to help teach the principles of flight, aircraft recognition and engineering to 200,000 boy cadets many of whom went on to fight for their country.

"Today the educational theme is retained in some articles but there is a wider mix of news and compelling features with something for everyone. The magazine has to evolve as the media landscape changes but I'm glad to say it's going strong and we hope to be opening the champagne for the 90th in another decade."

Gracing the front cover over the years have been a range of aircraft from the Sunderland and the Spitfire to the venerable Chipmunk, the Tutor and the Typhoon. Royalty, celebrities and even astronaut Mike Foale "in space" have featured.

The 80th is also a special moment in time for the editorial team including Denise Parker, Editor Carol McCombe and Graphic Designer Steve Davies who have between them spent 67 years working on the publication!

Carol said: "It's been a huge privilege to edit AIR CADET magazine and to share with such a wide audience just what a fantastic organisation the RAF Air Cadets is. The magazine has certainly changed over the past few decades but what hasn't altered is the enthusiasm and commitment of the cadets and the selfless dedication of all the staff - it shines from every page.

"My thanks to all the magazine's contributors over the years and a special thank you to Steve Davies whose design skills and imagination ensure that your news and features translate so vibrantly on to every single page. I don't know whether I shall still be at the helm for the magazine's 90th but I shall certainly be raising a glass to its continued success!"

Steve said: "As a designer, I've always felt that I put more effort into a project if I find the subject matter interesting. Seeing some of the fantastic activities the cadets get up to, my only regret when working on the magazine is that I didn't join the RAF Air Cadets myself when I was younger.

Both the ATC and the magazine have evolved so much over the years, and it's been a joy to have had so much involvement. I don't think there are any other projects I work on that reach such a wide and distinguished audience. Thanks to Denise Parker and Carol McCombe for giving me the opportunity." ■

Copies of Air Cadet have also travelled far and wide with cadets in the Nineties enjoying a competition to take it to the most remote place possible. It has been to the top of Mount Kilimanjaro, Everest Basecamp and to Hong Kong to name but a few. But the challenge is on again – where can you take your copy during RAF100? Send a photo and caption to Denise at denise.parker-housby594@mod.gov.uk There will be a special prize for the cadet or volunteer that takes the magazine to the most unusual or best destination. ■



RAF100 Takes Off



The RAF was formed on 1 April 1918 - a century on, major celebrations are underway to mark this milestone ...

“I invite all volunteers and cadets to embrace the challenges and opportunities that arise from RAF100 ...”

2018 marks 100 years of the Royal Air Force, the world's first - and most famous - independent Air Force ...

The RAF100 campaign seeks to commemorate 100 years of extraordinary achievement and sacrifice. It aims to celebrate the contribution that the RAF continues to make today, as a driving force behind leading edge technology. It also intends to motivate the general public and inspire future generations to think about the part they could play in the next 100 years. The campaign to support this milestone in the nation's history officially launches on 1 April 2018 with the RAF100 Baton Relay, and will run for approximately six months, with a programme of public events at national and regional levels.

With such a bumper calendar of events offering opportunities for RAF Air

Cadets and CCF (RAF) contingents to get their cadets involved, Air Commodore Dawn McCafferty, Commandant Air Cadets, said: “I invite all volunteers and cadets to embrace the challenges and opportunities that arise from RAF100 and to put your collective thinking hats on to consider how you might like to commemorate, celebrate or inspire those around you to mark the RAF's historic milestone.”

Ahead of the public launch in April, there have already been several events, including a House of Commons reception at Speaker's House in November to commemorate signing of the Royal Assent 100 years ago, which led to the formation of the Royal Air Force in 1918.

The centrepiece of RAF100 takes place on 10 July, with a Centenary service in Westminster Abbey, followed by a parade in the Mall and mass flypast.

Cadets from Sussex Wing are travelling to the United States next month to celebrate RAF100 and will be taking part in NASA's Space Centre U programme - a challenging, five-day programme that promotes teamwork, problem solving, communication and engineering solutions to space related situations.

There will also be commemorative airshows throughout the summer, a nationwide tour of famous aircraft from the past 100 years to the centres of some of the UK's biggest cities as well as dozens of themed regional events.

Durham and Northumberland Cadets are planning to attend a special Service of Thanksgiving in Durham Cathedral, followed by a parade and review. The event is also being supported by personnel from RAF Leeming and from 607 (County of Durham) Squadron Royal Auxiliary Air Force.

Meanwhile, cadets from 42F (Kings Lynn) Squadron will be commemorating and remembering 100 years of the RAF in conjunction with Norfolk Airfields.

As well as researching airfields and aircraft types from the past 100 years, the cadets have been working with local schools and the Heritage Centre at RAF Marham to design maps of the airfields as an educational trail.

The trail runs from March until October and will take in 40 WWI and WWII airfields around Norfolk. ■



“We aim to inspire people across the UK. As members of our cadet forces, you can help by celebrating our first 100 years and looking on to our next ...”

Air Vice-Marshal Mike Wigston, (pictured) Assistant Chief of the Air Staff and Lead for RAF100.

“We hope to have cadets and volunteers involved in all major events, be that parades, concerts, sport events or community projects.

“We have been given a very generous donation from the RAF100 LIBOR funds and this will support: delivery of the 2018 Mega Aerospace Camp; a number of cadet expeditions overseas; refurbishment of our mobile climbing walls; the build of a new indoor climbing facility at our new Adventurous Training Centre at Fairbourne; purchase of high quality leadership training equipment; and development of smart technology to support cadet activity.”

Air Commodore Dawn McCafferty, Commandant Air Cadets



RAF 100



Key National Events

Highlights include:

01 April RAF Baton Relay commences.

08 April Honorary Group captain Carol Vorderman joins 1,000 cadets for a parade in Doncaster.

Summer A National Aircraft Tour will visit six major UK locations, with the potential for tens of thousands of visitors to interact with the RAF.

21 June RAF Museum Re-Opening Ceremony.

30 June Armed Forces Day, Plymouth including RAF100 anniversary celebration and commemoration.

10 July The RAF100 parade along the Mall, a mass flypast and consecration of a new Queen's Colour for the RAF.

13 July Royal Review of Her Majesty's Aircraft at RIAT, Fairford.

03-25 August The RAF will take the lead at the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo.

16 September Battle of Britain Service, London.

14 November RAF100 Youth STEAM programme closing event, RAF Museum, Cosford.

Science and Technology Focus



The RAF is looking to the next generation for innovative ideas to shape its second century.

Its expanded youth engagement programme, RAF Inspire, is expected to reach up to two million nine to 15-year-olds across the country through a range of activities including:

The distribution of 1,000 STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths) boxes to schools and free online downloadable resources. Hosting 100 school activity days - delivered by RAF STEAM Ambassadors - reaching every corner of the United Kingdom. Offering cadets and other youngsters a

chance to attend one of three STEAM residential courses, taking up to 100 students per course at RAF Wittering, RAF Cranwell and RAF Cosford.

Air Vice-Marshal Sue Gray, Air Officer Commanding Number 38 Group and head of the RAF's Engineer branch, said: "For almost 100 years, the RAF has been a leading force in technological advancement and innovation.

Today, through our youth engagement programme, the RAF is looking to the next generation for innovative ideas to shape our second century and ensure that we will always be first to the future". ■

Passing the Baton

One of the many events happening in 2018 will be the Centenary Baton Relay which will see a specially designed baton visit 100 sites associated with the RAF in 100 days.

The relay will begin its journey at the Royal Courts of Justice on 1 April and will end 100 days later on 10 July on Horseguards Parade.

And it's expected that dozens of cadets will take part in the relay as it makes its way around the country.

The baton has been designed by students of the No 4 School of Technical Training at MOD St Athan.

It will be constructed using brass, wood, aluminum, steel and carbon aerofoil wing cross-sections, symbolising aircraft construction through the ages.

The design also features LED rings of red, white and blue which will illuminate the baton symbolising the RAF roundel. It will also include the RAF badge and RAF100 logo. ■



RAF Air Cadets from Northern Ireland Wing are tackling an extraordinary project for RAF100 – they're building an aircraft!

Some 60 cadets from across Northern Ireland are taking part in the project working together to build a Sting S4 plane at Ulster Aviation Society's Lisburn hangar.

The project 'Centennial Wings', supported by funding from Boeing and the Air League, was launched at Farnborough in July 2016 on the date of Boeing's Centenary, with a completion date this year – the RAF's own Centenary.

It is giving the talented teens the opportunity to build a plane from scratch, complementing and enhancing the existing RAF Air Cadets' curriculum with hands-on practical application of classroom theory. The completed, two-seater aircraft will be capable of a maximum speed of 177 miles per hour. To add to the challenge, the plane must be ready to fly over to the Royal International Air Tattoo, the world's largest military air show, this July.

Future

Launching the project, Sir Michael Arthur, President Boeing Europe and managing director, Boeing UK, said: "It is fitting that on the day of Boeing's Centenary when we are looking ahead to the next 100 years of aerospace innovation, we can announce this new educational programme to benefit RAF Air Cadets in Northern Ireland.

"These young men and women are the future of our industry and I could not be more proud that we can support this engaging, hands-on STEM initiative."

As that all-important summer deadline approaches, the pace of work is hotting up and so, too, is the cadets' enthusiasm for the task. Mark Woods who is a Cadet Flight Sergeant with 1137 (East Belfast) Squadron says, "I couldn't believe my ears when we were told about the project ... that they were actually going to let cadets tinker with thousands of pounds worth of aircraft and we'd actually make it fly in the end! How good is that? To be able to



Plane Crazy!

come down here and not only see the aircraft up close, but actually to put a plane together ... there's just nothing I can compare that to!"

The cadet team is on schedule to complete the project in the next couple of months. The internal cockpit dash has been fitted as well as the tail, wings and elevators. And having just placed the Rotax 912 engine on to the aircraft frame, focus will now turn to the aircraft's electronics and instruments in the coming weeks.

Enthusiasm

Cadet Corporal Mark Gunning, who hopes to build his future career in engineering, said: "We are learning from people who are at the top of their game. They are all really happy to be sharing their knowledge and skills with us cadets which is really generous on their part. This has been a great way for me to get a real feel for engineering and everything I have seen and experienced has just reinforced and added to my interest in the subject."

Wing Commander Mike Miskimmin, Officer Commanding Northern Ireland Wing RAF Air Cadets, is delighted to see local Air Cadets involved in a key project to mark the 100th Anniversary of the formation of the Royal Air Force and he is impressed at the skill and enthusiasm

which the teenagers have brought to the demanding task, guided and supported by the Ulster Aviation Society and engineers from Boeing UK.

Priceless

He says, "No matter what we throw at them, our Cadets always rise to the challenge, combining a great sense of fun with an incredible appetite for learning. I have watched with admiration as these young people have put their STEAM subjects to use in the most dramatic way possible, plus they have taken on a wide range of new, practical skills.

"The cadets have also sharpened up their team and leadership skills and can look forward to their hard work and determination paying off in fine style when their plane is on display at the world-famous RIAT show. As they build their plane, they are also laying down firm foundations for their next steps in education ... and stocking up some priceless memories into the bargain!" ■





RAF100 Parade



The RAF Air Cadets celebrate RAF100 at their annual ATC Sunday service at St Clement Danes Church in the City of Westminster ...

There was a double cause for celebration at this year's ATC Sunday Parade as Royal

Air Force Air Cadets marked not only the 77th Anniversary of the Air Training Corps but also the Centenary of the Royal Air Force.

Ever since the organisation formed in 1941, the closest Sunday to February 5th has been known as ATC Sunday and is often marked with services across the

country with the largest service taking place at St Clement Danes Church, the central church for the Royal Air Force. Despite being located in the London and South East Region, the event is attended by cadets and volunteers from the Air Training Corps from across the country and all six banners from each region in the Corps are paraded. and Combined Cadet Force (RAF) cadets were also in attendance.

As 2018 marks the Centenary of the Royal Air Force, additional recognition was also given to the RAF as gratitude for their support across eight decades of the RAF Air Cadets. More than 300 cadets and volunteer staff paraded in

central London, before filling the pews at St Clement Danes. Cadets from 56 (Woolwich) Squadron were joined by a special visitor, Corporal Li Cheuk Yin Jerry, from the Ceremonial Squadron Hong Kong Air Cadet Corps, who said: "The HKACC don't allow religious displays, so this is a first for me. It's been a great experience. "Being a member



Words by
Images by

Flt Lt Coralie Young
Philip Jones



of the ceremonial squadron I live and breathe drill so the parade was also fantastic for me."

At St Clement Danes the group was joined by a number of senior RAF Officers and other VIPs, for a service of Thanksgiving and Dedication led by The Reverend James Pitkin.

Talented young musicians from the London & South East Region RAF Air Cadets' band provided musical accompaniment both to the parade and the service, and the National Air Cadet Choir performed a stunning rendition of Leonard Cohen's "Hallelujah."

During the service, Commandant Air Cadets spoke to the congregation reflecting on the positive changes in equality and diversity within the RAF.

Cadet Warrant Officer Zach Davies from 1360 (Stapleford & Sandiacre) Squadron who was in charge of the Central and East Region banner party, said: "It was a great honour for 1360 to be selected to carry the Region Banner on such a prestigious occasion. This will rate as one of the high points of my time in the cadets."

The service was followed by a reception at the Royal Courts of Justice, at which the band and choir performed whilst cadets and adult volunteers mingled with the guests.

Amongst the VIPs who attended was Air Marshal Julian Young, Chief of Materiel (Air) at Defence Equipment and Support, who was asked to cut a specially made cake to celebrate the 100th birthday of the RAF.

The cake was baked and decorated by Flight Lieutenant Jade Brock, Officer Commanding 209 (West Bridgford) Squadron, who said: "I've made cakes for friends and this was a big project. I am trying not to be too nervous about today and feel very honoured to have been asked to bake a cake for this very special occasion." ■

“This will rate as one of the high points of my time in the cadets ...”



Award for Chris

Flight Lieutenant Chris Booty, Officer Commanding 282 (East Ham) Squadron has been awarded a certificate of Meritorious Service from Air Commodore Dawn McCafferty, Commandant Air Cadets.

A spokesman for the squadron said: "The squadron has gone from strength to strength in Flt Lt Booty's 10 years in charge. With several trips to India, Poland and Ghana, the cadets have gained life changing experiences that only some people can dream of having. Cadets have been pushed by him to succeed and gain every bit of experience, qualifications and make the most of every opportunity presented to them. Everyone at 282 would like to thank him and congratulate him on his well deserved award." ■

Gold Medals

Cadets from 2344 (Longbenton) Squadron have won gold for the second year running in the Durham/Northumberland Wing Cross County Championships.

The youngsters braved icy winds, mud and puddles to clinch first place at the event. Cadet James Douglas, 17, said: "It's great to have won for a second year in a row. It's always a tough competition but we just went out to do our best and run for the team."

The squadron has finished in the top five in the competition every year since 2010, winning a staggering six times during that same period." ■

Cadets Scoop Top Prize in Aerospace Challenge

A team of air cadets was announced the winners of the 2017 Schools Aerospace Challenge at a special awards ceremony at the Institution of Mechanical Engineers in London.

The Aerospace Challenge asked the teams to design an 'unmanned aerial vehicle' (UAV) for the Royal Air Force which was capable of carrying a 1000kg payload and be deployable anywhere in the world within 24 hours. The teams also had to consider logistical factors such as runway requirements, air traffic control, fleet size and economics.

The winning team included Cadet Sergeants George Wood and Thomas Cameron-Jenkins from 1408 (Dorking) Squadron and Corporal Harry Pite from 1254 (Godalming) Squadron.

Corporal Pite replaced Flight Sergeant Harry Mellett from 1408 Sqn, who had to make the difficult decision to drop out halfway through the competition in order to complete his ACPS flying scholarship.

Interesting

The team decided to enter the competition when it was suggested by their Squadron Commanding Officer as an interesting project.

Designing the UAV called on much of the knowledge gained from their ACP training, especially 'Principles of Flight' and 'Airframes'. They also put some of the mathematics learned in school to practical use.

The aircraft they designed was a hit with the judges, named Pteranodon - a flying dinosaur with a huge wingspan. The team researched the best construction materials to use (carbon laminates as used in the 787 Dreamliner), designed features such as fuel tanks incorporated into the wing structure to aid stability and prevent changes in the centre of gravity as fuel is burnt off, and

chose Rolls Royce RB199 engines to power their aircraft.

The engine choice was well thought out, as they are currently used in the Tornado GR4. This means the RAF already have personnel trained to service them, and when the Tornados are retired in 2019 the engines and spare parts will have a further use. The design also made use of GPS, pre-programmed flight plans, and anti-collision technology.

The team submitted their entry and gained a place in the top 12 nationally which meant they enjoyed a residential 'Aerospace Experience Summer School' at Cranfield University over the summer.

This included lectures and briefings on aerospace and engineering from military and industry experts, visits to RAF Waddington, Hybrid Air Vehicles, and Marshall Aerospace and they were also stretched with practical challenges, and the opportunity to experience 'indoor skydiving'.

Proud

Sergeant George Wood, the team captain, said: "I was very proud to lead my dedicated and focused team. This experience has taught us many things and we feel privileged to have been given the opportunity to participate in the Schools Aerospace Challenge. From our idea and submission of our entry, to the week at Cranfield, the experience has not only developed us as individuals but also as a group.

"Winning was the cherry on the cake, I feel honoured to accept the award and I hope it inspires other air cadets to enter this year."



Flight Sergeant Harry Mellett added: "When I first heard about the competition I knew it would be an intriguing and interesting challenge. My main input into the team was to design the UAV based upon the concepts and ideas of my other team mates. In order to help with this I used a piece of software that NASA use, which was really cool! As I was on my flying scholarship in Dundee, I was unable to attend the week at Cranfield University but I kept in touch with my team to hear about their amazing experiences.

Opportunity

"This project has been a fantastic opportunity and I very much enjoyed working with my fellow cadets. I was so proud to have been invited to the prestigious Institute of Mechanical Engineers where we were announced as the winners."

The Commanding Officer of 1408 Squadron, Flight Lieutenant Andrew Byrne said: "The Aerospace Challenge is a perfect example of the opportunities open to cadets, encouraging them to try something new and different, and bring alive the training the RAFAC delivers.

"I am absolutely thrilled that the team won, but more importantly that they enjoyed the experience. Watching cadets accept the challenges put in front of them, and then surprising themselves with the success they achieve, is what

drives me as a volunteer. My thanks must go to the wing, region and HQAC staff who support and enable squadron staff to deliver opportunities such as this one to the cadets."

As winners of the overall competition, the team will share prize money of £3,000. For the team members from 1408 Squadron, this has created more work for them.

Their Commanding Officer has tasked them to come up with a STEAM project to engage and benefit other cadets on the squadron, using the prize money to fund it. The decision as to what that project will be is ultimately in their hands - as they are the proven experts. The 2018 Schools Aerospace Challenge is now open ...

www.aerospacechallenge.org ■

“I am absolutely thrilled that the team won, but more importantly that they enjoyed the experience.”

Royal Duties

Eleven cadets and two members of staff from 230 (Congleton) Squadron provided a guard of honour for HRH The Prince of Wales and Duchess of Cornwall.

Hundreds of families lined the streets to welcome the Royal couple to Congleton - part of a wider tour around Cheshire. Pilot Officer Kate Bonney, the squadron's adjutant, said:

"It truly was a privilege to provide a guard of honour for the Royal couple and officially welcome them to our beautiful town hall. The Duchess spoke to every cadet as she passed by our lining party."

Cadet Sergeant

Joe Krinks added: "This was an incredible opportunity for our squadron and will be a wonderful memory for many years to come." ■

Silver Success

Two cadets from 868 (Mirfield) Squadron have reached new heights at RAF Topcliffe.

Corporals Thomas Fedzin and Gabriele Kvedwaite achieved their Silver Gliding Wings for completing their first solo flight in a Grob 109 Vigilant motor glider.

An extra special achievement as the pair are only 16 years old - so they have taken charge of an aircraft before they can legally drive a car!

Mirfield's squadron commander, Flight Lieutenant Peter Doubell, said: "For a variety of reasons, gliding for air cadets has been difficult in recent years, but we can certainly now see the activity coming back into fruition, and the advantages of a new progressive training structure.

"Thomas and Gabby have been the first of our cadets to benefit, but we hope their success will also be enjoyed by many others as the new programme continues to roll out." ■



Embracing the Cyberspace Age in the RAF

The modern day Royal Air Force relies upon a network of communication, radar and information systems around the world. It is the role of our our Cyberspace & Communication specialists – formerly known as ICT Technicians, to ensure that the systems we use are fit for purpose in both the UK and overseas.

The role of Cyberspace Communication Specialist is just one of more than 50 careers to choose from in the RAF. But what does the role actually entail?

The typical responsibilities for a Cyberspace Communication Specialist are:

- Manage equipment like tactical satellite systems and airfield radars.
- Support IT users and local area networks.
- Set-up communication and control systems for operations and exercises.

There is no doubting just how important the cyberspace job is to the RAF - with the role being vital to nearly everything the Air Force does in 2016, as Squadron Leader Peter Smith, SO2 Specialist

Recruitment Teams for the Royal Air Force explained.

He said: "Cyberspace & Communication Specialists are the future of the RAF. Their role touches every part of what we do, and the importance is only set to increase. Joining the RAF in this role is the beginning of a rewarding career for many young people, who will help lead our drive into the future."

So what is a normal day like for a Cyberspace Communication Specialist? And how does the job fit into the wider RAF lifestyle of exciting opportunities such as sport, adventure training and travel? We spoke to one of our current specialists in the field to find out more ... ■

“A fantastic e



experience ... ”

On The Job

Cyberspace Communication Specialist - SAC Steven Barnett

What is your role?

My current job role as a Cyberspace Communication Specialist is an Administrator for Ground Support Systems. This involves maintaining the network for the Engineering Support System on the Typhoon aircraft. It's a great job as we work closely with the Typhoon squadron and the modern equipment which goes into supporting the aircraft.

Why did you decide to join the RAF?

It gave me an opportunity to both acquire a skill set and trade as well as being able to apply my new skills practically as I learnt them. Getting paid to learn also

worked well for me as I have been able to gain a number of new qualifications – all whilst being trained by the RAF.

What do you enjoy most about your role in the RAF?

The potential to travel is exciting about this role, as anywhere Engineering support is required for the EuroFighter Typhoon, a Ground Support System server and administration team are also required. This could be a location throughout the UK or somewhere overseas – meaning the chance to travel with my job is always possible.

What type of training have you had to undertake in the RAF?

I completed 13 months of apprenticeship training at RAF Cosford, this covered a wide variety of subjects, with



server, networking and IT essentials being particularly useful for this role. Further role-specific training was taken upon arriving at RAF Coningsby.

Which apprenticeship are you undertaking in the RAF?

I am studying an NVQ Level 3 Advanced Apprenticeship for IT software, web and telecoms professionals – all of which go a long way to supporting me in my role as a Cyberspace Communication Specialist.

What is the work-life balance at the RAF like?

My work and life are very well balanced; working both early and late shifts gives me time to do things on and off station in my spare time as well as travel home regularly to see my family and friends. The station I work on has everything I need during the week, including sports facilities, shops and bars. It is also a short drive to Lincoln – a city which I have been able to visit regularly since I moved to the area.

Have you done any adventurous training or extra activities since joining the Service?

During apprenticeship training at RAF Cosford I went for a week to FDOT Crickhowell with my course. We took part in mountain biking, caving and walking around the Welsh countryside, which was

a fantastic experience and something I hope to do again in the near future.

What have you learnt in your time in the RAF?

I have learnt that there are opportunities to take but you have to stay motivated towards your goals and change them as necessary to make the most of everything you want to achieve.

What has been the greatest challenge so far?

During apprenticeship training I had to take in a lot of new information for subjects I had never worked towards before, so processing some things I had never considered before was challenging, but over time it became much easier and has really helped my development as I have grown into the job role.

Did you have any concerns?

I had a few minor concerns about moving away from home, but during training everyone is in the same position and you all get through it together. Any real friends and family are only a text or phone call away so you soon learn it's not so bad.

How does RAF life fit in with seeing your family and friends?

RAF life fits well with seeing my friends and family as I'm not really too far away from them. The weekends are still great

opportunities to see the people you care about. Not to mention the ability to take leave for time away from your base.

Why would you recommend a career in the RAF?

For the prospects of being paid to learn a trade, have a secure job, competitive salary, top medical and dental care and the opportunities to travel, both in the UK and overseas.

Find out more

Cyberspace & Communication Specialists enjoy an apprenticeship programme unrivalled in the civilian world, with a guaranteed job at the end. After broad-reaching initial training, there are opportunities to specialise in a number of areas, such as network management and radars.

Candidates will earn as they learn and, uniquely within the RAF, will be offered a £2,000 bonus upon completion of training. The roles are supported with first-rate travel and lifestyle benefits. .

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First Female RWO

Warrant Officer Donna Hall has taken up a new post in Wales and West Region, making her the first female Regional Warrant Officer across the whole of the RAF Air Cadets.

Warrant Officer Hall will be looking after 157 squadrons with a total of 6,500 cadets and staff and will be responsible for mentoring, advising and training in matters of drill, uniform and general deportment.

After joining as a cadet at 90 (Speke) Squadron before transferring to 2460 (Pontefract) and reaching the rank of Cadet Warrant Officer, Donna remained with the organisation as staff at 2359 (Woolton) and 2369 (Kirkby) Squadrons before being appointed as the Wing Warrant Officer for Merseyside Wing.

Warrant Officer Hall said: "I am over the moon at being appointed Regional Warrant Officer.

"I am looking forward to working with everyone in Wales & West Region as well as throughout RAF Air Cadets."

Outgoing Regional Warrant Officer Neil Morris said: "I have thoroughly enjoyed my time as Regional Warrant Officer. I have every confidence that Warrant Officer Hall will ensure that the role will continue to grow. I wish her every success." ■



CVQO Westminster Award

Congratulations to the RAF Air Cadets who have made it through to the regional finals of the CVQO Westminster Award 2018!

From a record number of nominations, our cadets join those from across all uniformed youth organisations on the shortlist of 40 regional finalists who now go through to a selection event in Somerset next month.

Guy Horridge, CVQO Chief Executive said: "It feels as if we say this every year, but records keep being broken – the submissions were so strong that our panel had to settle on 40 finalists, up from 30 last year.

"Sadly, more nominations does inevitably mean more disappointment. There really were an unbelievable group of young people nominated this year, who will all go on to do fantastic and inspiring things with their lives.

"To those who weren't successful, remember how well you did to get this far and keep being brilliant."



The CVQO Westminster Award celebrates young people who have selflessly helped others, have worked hard to overcome difficult challenges and show a willingness to succeed and achieve their goals.

Many congratulations to the following cadets, who are now one step closer to being crowned the winner of the Award in 2018: Georgia Allison, 1414 (Crowborough) Sqn; Alexander Anderson, 1367 (Caerleon) Sqn; Philippa Bennett, 1245 (Cirencester) Sqn; Joshua Callaghan, 607 (Wearmouth) Sqn; Joshua Clegg, 59 (Huddersfield) Sqn; Alfie Davies, 610 (City of Chester) Sqn; Bradley Gunn, 295 (Witham & Rivenhall) Sqn; Cameron Hoyle, 303 (Worksop) Sqn; Isabelle Manley, 722 (Chivenor) Sqn. ■

Thanks to a Loyal Friend

Comedian Sir Ken Dodd, who passed away recently, was a loyal supporter of 1913 (Knotty Ash) Squadron.

Sir Ken had been the President of the squadron for more than 20 years and a friend for much longer. Over the years he provided financial assistance to many cadets on camps and expeditions and in 2013 sponsored three cadets to go on a driving expedition across Mongolia.

Five years earlier when the squadron was broken into and vandalised, two weeks before the Lees inspection, Sir Ken rallied the local community and provided funds to repair most of the damage.

A spokesman for the squadron said: "Sir Ken was also very generous with his time and has attended many presentation evenings and fundraisers, using the time to talk to and get to know the cadets.

"During one presentation evening, he spoke to the OC at the time and said, 'Are you responsible for putting the cadets through their paces?' To which the officer replied 'Yes'. Sir Ken continued 'I thought so, what a voice you've got. I can hear you in my kitchen. I must have the only budgie in Liverpool who could present arms'.

"The staff, civilian committee and cadets of 1913 will be forever grateful for his support. Our thoughts and prayers are with his friends, family and beloved wife Anne." ■



**Royal Air Force
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The RAF Benevolent Fund has been standing side by side with members of the RAF Family since 1919. Back then we spent £919 helping young airmen get back on their feet.

Today we spend almost £18m every year helping veterans, serving personnel and their dependents in their time of need.

Help us to continue our work. www.rafbf.org/get-involved

If you are in need of support call 0800 169 2942

During the past 12 months, the Royal Air Force Charitable Trust (RAFCT) has spent almost £250,000 to support a wide variety of projects and initiatives designed to encourage cadets to make the most of the Air Cadet experience.

By far the largest slice of this money goes towards funding a range of valuable flying scholarships that offer cadets the opportunity to experience the thrill of getting airborne and learning to fly.

For example, the Air Chief Marshal Sir Michael Knight Flying Scholarships offers nine Air Cadets, who display the most promise of a successful career in aviation, the opportunity to embark on flying training that could lead to the award of a Private Pilot's Licence. From these nine will be chosen the RAFCT-sponsored Flying Excellence Trophy winner, representing the 'best of the best', who will receive an award of up to £5,000 towards furthering their flying training.

On the ground, we've provided £25,000 to pay for air cadet air rifles and rifle ranges, £10,000 to ensure the Syerston Aerospace Camp 2017 was as exciting and engaging as possible, plus the same amount towards the production of your must-read AIR CADET magazine.

Support

At the Trust, we're particularly keen to support activities that are designed to help build character, team spirit and encourage personal growth. This is why, year after year, we contribute thousands of pounds to help fund a range of exciting and challenging adventure training activities, organised through the Ulysses Trust.

Since this time last year, we've spent more than £30,000 on RAFAC Adventure Training which has helped Dorset & Wiltshire and Devon & Cornwall air cadets with their Ten Tors Challenge on Dartmoor as well as cadets from Bristol & Gloucestershire Wing and Essex Wing

with their multi-activity trips to Canada and France respectively. We've helped fund, through the UT, 218 (Rotherham) Squadron's summer camp on the Isle of Wight; West Sussex's expedition to Peru and Cumbria and Lancashire's Wing's sailing expedition in Scotland and the north of England.

But that's not all!

When the charity was established in 2005, one of our primary aims was to encourage all young people like you to be excited about - and inspired by - aviation and the associated STEAM subjects that underpin it.

Those cadets who have attended summer camp at the Royal International Air Tattoo and have taken time out to visit the exciting Techno Zone will have seen just how committed we are to bringing to life those subjects that many of you are learning in the classroom and demonstrating the exciting ways the principles of maths, science, engineering and technology are applied in the real world.

No matter what you have involved yourself in as an RAF Air Cadet during the past 12 months it's highly likely the Royal Air Force Charitable Trust (RAFCT) has provided a helping hand at some point and during the next year





we'll remain committed to you and your development.

How to apply

To look into applying for a grant, please speak with your local chain of command. There is a form to complete with details about what it is you wish the RAFCT to help with and this specific form can be found on Bader.

To ensure it reaches us with all the things we need to assist our decision-making it is checked by a Panel, which is chaired by the Commandant. The whole process is uncomplicated and straightforward to complete, and you are strongly encouraged to make use of it.

Many have done exactly that in the past and are now enjoying the benefits of a grant to help make their project or plan come to life. To find out more about RAFCT scholarships and the charity itself visit www.airtattoo.com/the-trust/scholarships-and-awards ■

IMAGES (L-R): Cadets at Syerston Aerospace Camp; Cadets take on a sailing challenge thanks to the RAFCT; 2017 RAFCT Flying Excellence Trophy winner Cadet Sergeant Ben Makin, 18 of 1010 (City of Salisbury) Squadron.

**ROYAL Charitable
AIR FORCE Trust**
promote support encourage

Sports' Finale

The Air Training Corps' Senior rugby and netball competitions reached their conclusion for 2017 at RAFC Cranwell with a day of fierce competition between all six regions and some very closely fought matches.

The rugby was won by Central and East Region after a very competitive final with London & South East Region. C&E's team captain, 16-year-old Cadet Corporal Jay Shipway from 1239 (Broxbourne & Hoddesdon) Squadron, said it had been a "perfect day." The team did not concede a single try and the Region's Sports Officer, Sqn Ldr Stephen Riggs, was full of praise. He said: "The cadets put in a strong performance that was reflected in the results."

On the netball court the competition was also closely fought and very little separated the top teams. Ultimate winner was London & South East Region with South West Region in second place. Captain, Cadet Warrant Officer Jessica El-Homssi from 14F (Northolt) Squadron, said: "I was very impressed by the team's performance. We had two very tight games but the team pulled-together and all came good in the end." ■



Worcester lands in Number One Spot ...

Worcester's RAF Air Cadets have been presented with a prestigious trophy after they were awarded the number one spot in the UK.

Cadets and staff from 187 (City of Worcester) Squadron held a ceremony where they were presented with the Lees Trophy before a specially invited audience of family, friends and VIPs.

The Lees Trophy is awarded to the squadron judged to be the best in overall achievement and efficiency and is one of the most distinguished awards available to the Air Training Corps.

Opportunities

Officer Commanding 187 Squadron, Flying Officer Karl Nicholson, was presented with the award by Air Commodore Dawn McCafferty. A cash prize of £2,500 was also received which will go towards providing the youngsters with more excellent opportunities.

The trophy is named after Air Marshal Sir Alan Lees, a senior Royal Air Force officer in World War Two, who awarded the first trophy for the top cadet squadron in 1949. It is the third time 187 Squadron have won the award with the last win coming in 1972.

They competed against 930 squadrons across the UK and underwent a difficult three-part marking process before being crowned the winners. During the

presentation, a total of 30 cadets were given awards by special guests Group Captain Roger Simon and Wing Commander Andy Griffin. Commandant Air Cadets also took the opportunity to promote five cadets to corporal.

Dedication

Flying Officer Nicholson said: "Winning this award represents for us the culmination of hours and hours of hard work and dedication by the cadets and the staff team.

"It's amazing to have received this recognition and we are humbled to have been selected as the best squadron in the whole of the UK."

The winners of the Morris Trophy were 1211 (Swadlincote) Squadron and 1130 (Wrekin) Squadron were awarded the Marshall Trophy for the most improved squadron.

Commandant Air Cadets, Air Commodore McCafferty said: "Congratulations to the winners and also to all finalists. I know the runners-up will be hugely disappointed not to have secured the silverware but they are all winners in my book and they did their wings, regions and the Corps proud.

"My thanks to all the Regional Commandants and other staffs for their hard work behind the scenes to prepare the squadrons for inspection or nomination." ■

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Himalayan Venture 2018

RAF Air Cadets have joined climbers from across the world for an ambitious challenge to mark the centenary of

RAF climbers are to launch a bid to conquer the Himalayas to mark the RAF's 100th anniversary.

A group of 80 climbers from the across the RAF, including RAF Air Cadets, Reserves and University Air Squadron members will be taking part in the pioneering expedition to the Ralwaling and Khumbu regions of the Nepalese Himalayan range where they hope to reach altitudes of 6,000 metres after trekking up the Tesi Lapcha pass.

In the run up to the expedition this summer, a team of seven cadets and staff from London, Kent and Herts & Bucks Wing joined other RAF personnel in Scotland to take advantage of the amazing mountains to undertake their winter training.

Already planned to be one of the largest Royal Air Force single mountaineering training events ever held, the training weeks expect to deliver a staggering 50 Winter Mountain Foundation awards to its novice members, giving them a chance to qualify for team selection on the expedition.

The training sessions in the Cairngorms aim to teach the climbers the vital skills they'll need on some of the world's most demanding slopes. Conditions on the Himalayas can be severe so the climbers need to be able to dig survival holes so they can wait out the weather.

This was the cadets first experience of using winter equipment and saw them learn to use ice axes and crampons to safely move around the mountain. This was coupled with avalanche awareness and emergency shelter training. The busy hill days were supplemented with evening winter mountaineering lectures and expedition specific briefs.

RAF in preparation
the service ...



“Over the two weeks of winter training I was lucky enough to get out on to the Cairngorm mountains with members of the RAF Air Cadets.

I was particularly impressed by the younger cadets, who having never operated on snow and ice before, faced down some truly challenging Scottish winter conditions with determination and humour.

The prospect of them being in Nepal with us in September is very exciting indeed”.

**Sqn Ldr Peter McCreedy,
HV18 Expedition Leader.**

Civilian Instructor George Allbut from 871 (Penn) Squadron and the RAF Air Cadets Deputy Team Leader said: “Challenging weather conditions, with heavy snow and high winds, tested the cadets to their limits. Despite this they ended the week, having earned their Winter Mountain Foundation, with smiles on their faces, ready for their next challenge on a journey that leads to Nepal.”

In the coming weeks, the cadets will continue their training and undertake their Summer Mountain Foundation. This will be a cadet specific course, focusing on navigation and route selection, and designed to allow the cadets to further integrate and work as a team.

The entire expedition will be uniting again in June for a pre-deployment week, which will include activities such as high-altitude First Aid training, expedition packing and cultural lessons. The expedition – one of the largest mountaineering expeditions the RAF has launched - will depart the UK at the end of August and spend a month out in Nepal.

There will be a few days to acclimatise in Kathmandu before the teams embark on their routes, totalling over 20 days of arduous trekking at altitude up to 5,775m.

Five teams, including an alpine team aiming to make the first British ascent





of Langdung, will be assembled for the expedition which will also mark 70 years since the founding of the RAF Mountaineering Association and 75 years of the RAF Mountain Rescue Service. Squadron Leader Peter McCreedy, HV18 Expedition Leader, said: "Himalayan Venture 18 is going to be an incredible opportunity - in a unique celebratory year - to bring together wider RAF family to mount a truly adventurous expedition to an amazing part of the world."

George Allbut added: "It is an extraordinary opportunity for the cadets to undertake such a unique pioneering expedition with all elements of the RAF family."

"The experience will develop and inspire them as they work alongside Regulars, Reserves and UAS officer cadets both in training and then on the arduous trek through the Ralwaling and Khumbu regions of Nepal." ■

What Does HV18 Want To Achieve?

The aims of @raf100HV18 are:

- To **#Unite** individuals from across the RAF family that represent it's past, present and future through the challenges of high altitude mountaineering.
- To **#Develop** the skills, robustness, and expeditionary spirit of all applicants and deliver the mountaineering proficiency and qualifications to inspire the next generation to plan and lead future expeditions.
- To **#Pioneer** new routes and experiences in Nepal, including attempting British first ascents of mountains above 5500m.





Shackleton Trophy Winners

Bristol & Gloucestershire Wing's expedition into the untamed wilderness of Canada's Rocky Mountains has won the Shackleton Trophy.

The trophy was presented to cadets and staff by Air Chief Marshal, Sir David Parry-Evans, President of the Shackleton Association, at a special ceremony in the Ondaatje Theatre at the Royal Geographical Society.

And in a break with previous years, the winners of the trophy were not announced until the day. Event organiser and air cadets Expedition Adviser, Squadron Leader Mike Blakey, explained: "This year saw a change of format for the competition. It was the first time that we have brought together the four short-listed finalists to compete for the Trophy in front of a panel of judges and an audience eager to hear of their exciting exploits."

Inspired

Teams from the RAFAC Junior Leaders, Warwickshire and Birmingham, Bristol and Gloucestershire and West Mercian Wings went head to head, describing their individual expeditions.

"The competition was extremely tight," said Sqn Ldr Blakey. "Each presentation was delivered by enthusiastic cadets and staff, supported by some superb photographs. No one in the audience could fail to be inspired by what they heard and saw or to appreciate the exceptional achievements of each and every expedition member represented."

"However, there could only be one winner so congratulations to Bristol and Gloucestershire Wing for being awarded the Shackleton Trophy for 2017."

"But also congratulations to all the teams who entered the competition; it was truly a reflection and celebration of our overseas expedition traditions and our motto; Venture Adventure!"

Exercise Mountain Storm saw 19 cadets and nine staff fly out to Banff National Park for two weeks, including an unsupported six-day expedition into the wilderness with only chipmunks and bears for company.

Words & Images: Philip Jones & Sqn Ldr Mike Blakey



The Shackleton Trophy

The Shackleton Association was founded in 1987 to perpetuate the memory of the Avro Shackleton aircraft, itself named after the celebrated explorer Sir Ernest Shackleton.

The Shackleton Trophy is awarded annually to the RAF Air Cadets' team which mounts the most successful, imaginative and adventurous expedition. ■



LEFT: Flight Lieutenant Amanda Curtis receives a Commandant's Special Commendation from Commandant Air Cadets, Air Commodore Dawn McCafferty. The Commendation recognised the special leadership skills shown by Flt Lt Curtis, an instructor on the Junior Leaders' Course, on one of the expeditions in contention for the trophy.



Cadet Sergeant Abigail Tait, 2124 (Bristol Airport) Squadron, said: "It was an experience of a lifetime and a trip that I will not be forgetting any time soon."

"Not only did I get to see stunning views but the exercise also assisted in my personal development, not just as a leader, but also as a member of a team."

Challenging

The expedition also benefitted from the experience of their Canadian colleagues, from 878 (Banff) Squadron Royal Canadian Air Cadets, who offered their headquarters as a base of operations and arranged a talk on what to do in the event of a bear attack!

The 69km expedition, which culminated in sightseeing in Banff & Canmore and white water rafting down the Kicking Horse River, was hugely challenging but ultimately a great success.

Cadet Sergeant Nathan Griffin, 2002 (Kingswood) Squadron, said: "Winning the

Shackleton Trophy was certainly a surprise. We all put our best into the presentation, but there were many other great expeditions that took place in 2017! It took us all a couple of seconds to actually realise that we had won and we didn't really know what to do with ourselves!"

Wing Commander David Cox, Officer Commanding Bristol & Gloucester Wing, said "I am immensely proud of my staff team who two years ago proposed the expedition to Canada."

"The planning and outcomes have been excellent. The cadet team threw themselves heart and soul into the training and execution of the expedition."

Commitment

"Their delivery of the presentation at the Royal Geographical Society epitomised their enthusiasm, commitment and the fantastic experiences they shared. I was bursting with pride for them during the

presentation and when the result was announced."

Planning for Exercise Mountain Storm Two has already begun. Sqn Ldr Blakey said: "We are looking forward to another exciting competition this year. With a number of expeditions setting out to celebrate the RAF 100, 2018 should be a busy year!" ■

“I was bursting with pride for them during the presentation and when the result was announced ...”

Sixteenth at Sea

Cadet Sergeant Keelan Thompson from 158 (Braintree and District) Squadron celebrated his birthday in style on board a sailing ship.

Keelan joined 12 Royal Marine and Sea Cadets on the 130ft training brig TS Royalist for the six-day voyage from Weymouth to Gosport, earning the qualification Offshore Hand One.

One of the most memorable experiences was the chance to climb the rigging to the top of the 20 metre masts! Keelan said: "My week on board really has given me life skills that I have taken away with me, pushing me both physically and mentally." ■

Model cadets

Cadets from 92 (Chorley), 1471 (Horwich) and 2050 (Leyland) Squadrons put on an impressive display of models representing 100 years of the RAF at the Bolton IPMS Model Show.

Led by two Civilian Instructors, Paul Wong from 1471 and David Swift from 2050 Sqns, the display featured more than 50 models and included individual aircraft models and a number of dioramas depicting major events in the history of the RAF.

The event, the largest model show in the North West, attracted over 1,000 visitors and the judges were so impressed with the cadet display that they made two awards.

A diorama depicting Beaufighters of Coastal Command attacking a German destroyer in a fjord, built by 1471 Sqn, and a Gulf War diorama by 2050 Sqn were judged joint winners and each squadron received a £50 modelling voucher. ■



Cadet Milestone in RAF's Centenary Year

The RAF Association is preparing to send its 100th air cadet flying with its 2018 Flying Scholarship programme.

Coinciding with the RAF Centenary year, six air-minded youths will be awarded flight training including the 100th recipient of the Flying Scholarship.

Through the scholarship programme, air cadets are given the opportunity to take to the skies, with one air cadet awarded 35 hours' flight training in a light aircraft. Five runners-up will each receive 12 hours.

Scholarships are offered as a thank you from the RAF Association to members of the RAF Air Cadets who raise funds for the charity.

The programme makes quite an impact on the talented recipients, who cover many air miles during their training, including flying to France.

Speaking of his flying scholarship experience, 2017 runner-up, Cadet Sergeant Karol Kubik from 43F (Morden & Mitcham) Squadron said: "It's definitely the pinnacle of anyone's air cadet career. It's a fantastic opportunity and I'm very grateful."

He continued: "The beauty of organisations like the RAF Air Cadets and the RAF Association is that they don't discriminate. Where you live, where you're from, as long as you have the motivation and work hard, you'll go far." ■

Museum Celebrates 100 Years of the RAF

The RAF Museum will celebrate and commemorate the Centenary of the RAF through a major transformation of its visitor experience, sharing the RAF story on site and online. A multi-million-pound transformation of the RAF Museum's London home, reflecting the historic RAF Hendon airfield, will now welcome visitors.

Two new, innovative galleries will explore the first 100 years of the RAF, its roles today and invite visitors to imagine its future contribution and technology.

A third new exhibition will focus on the story of the RAF from the Falklands Conflict of the early 80's to current operations. Over 500 previously unseen artefacts relating to RAF history will be on display including logbooks, uniforms, lucky charms and technical equipment. The newly developed exhibitions will open at the end of June

as part of the wider calendar of RAF100 events. The Museum is also running a series of special public events to mark the RAF Centenary across both its sites including a Spitfire 10k run; Open Cockpit evenings and family events such as the Hendon Pageant and the Family Festival of Flight. ■



ROYAL AIR FORCE museum

Engineering Success ...

Launched to coincide with the National Year of the Engineer, the competition is an 18-month team challenge with some amazing prizes that aims to inspire people of all ages to get involved in Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths (STEAM).

To encourage maximum breadth of thought and vision and to promote innovation and ingenuity entries were invited that could meet four broad themes:

- Royal Air Force – the next 100 years
- Size, weight and power
- Height, reach, speed and endurance
- The Information Age

The dozens of entries have now all been judged and sifted with the following teams making it through to the final:



Cadets at 129 (Tunbridge Wells) Squadron are working on the creation of a new generation of flying suit for the RAF – one that not only allows for better communication and data transfer between the pilots and ground support but will also simultaneously monitor the health of the pilots in the air. ■

119 (Scunthorpe) Squadron; 2484 (Cambourne) Sqn; 2494 (Portishead) Sqn; 1015 (Horsham) Sqn; 1509 (Blaydon) Sqn; 2168 (Yeadon) Sqn; 2004 (Ballynahinch) Sqn; 806 (Larne) Sqn; 500 (Headcorn) Sqn; 1378 (Mold) & 1918 (Ruthin) Sqns; Team 1 and Team 4 from 1985 (Flitwick) Sqn; 29F (Rugby) Sqn; 129 (Tunbridge Wells) Sqn; 1924 (Shirley) Sqn; 2534 (Fakenham) Sqn; 2532 (Milton Keynes) Sqn and 39F (Barnes) Sqn.

The concepts designed and submitted are interesting and wide-ranging and include an auto-stabilising casualty bed; using social media to help direct RAF aid in an humanitarian crisis; an 'intelligent' ID pass and a space dustcart to remove space junk and so keep satellite orbit paths clear and safe.

Each finalist will now receive up to £3,000 and be partnered with industrial mentors that have the means to help transform their ideas into concept demonstrators and/or prototypes.

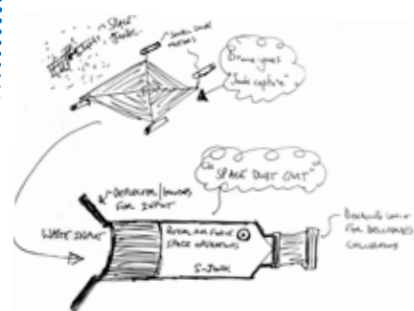
The final event to be held at RAF Duxford Air Show in September will include a 'Dragon's Den'-style pitch to



Cadets at 806 (Larne) Squadron have come up with the idea to develop a fully 3D printed, stealth Unmanned Aerial Vehicle for £3,000 with the capability to be built anywhere in the world by anyone with very little engineering experience. ■

The 'Space Dustcart' from 2534 (Fakenham) Squadron is a scalable solution to remove space junk, reduce its size, recover valuable materials and keep satellite orbit paths safe and clear. The cadets reasoned that space junk is already a huge problem and, with the proliferation of new technologies, is set to increase. It's predicted that 150,000 new, small satellites will be launched in the next 20 years.

They argued that communications, GPS and mission inter-operability between air, ground, sea and space could all be affected by the increasing risk of space debris or even space terrorism. The project aim is to quickly and effectively reduce the risk to expensive satellite assets, thus reducing the need for costly repairs or re-launches and, at the same time, potentially extending the mission life of a satellite. ■



a panel of expert judges drawn from the RAF and industry as well as inspiring celebrities and innovators from the world of science and technology. At stake is a top prize of a state-of-the-art flight simulator as well as other awards that will recognise ingenuity, teamwork, individual flair and academic rigour. ■





Flying High at Halton ...

The RAF Halton Aero Club is celebrating a major milestone - getting the 200th air cadet airborne!

One of the great attractions of becoming an air cadet is the potential to fly in either a powered or glider aircraft. With the help of funds from RAF Halton, topped up by Herts and Bucks Wing and a local charity, the Aero Club has now flown more than 200 cadets and expect to fly the 400th cadet sometime during 2018, the RAF Centenary year.

Determined

Chairman of the Halton Aero Club, Group Captain Mark Manwaring, said: "The HAC has a good track record of providing flying training for the RAF Air Cadets and RAF Junior Ranks through numerous flying scholarship schemes, bursaries and Enhanced Learning Credits training.

"Because of this, we were determined that it was not going to be just a passenger trip, but more of an interactive learning event that supported the academic syllabus of the cadets. This is achieved by starting the day with

a one hour briefing, which develops the Principles of Flight and Aircraft Operations package that cadets will have been taught at their squadrons before being eligible to fly."

Experience

"The briefing is followed by a 15-minute practical walk-around of the aircraft they are going to fly and full participation during the sortie under the supervision of carefully selected and No2 Flying Training School-endorsed HAC pilots.

"Cadets are responsible for reading elements of the checklist on the ground and have the opportunity to experience the effects of controls whilst in the air.

Feedback from this has been beyond expectation, with cadets reporting that they have learned more about principles of flight in one morning than weeks in their squadron classrooms." ■

Halton Aero Club

The HAC provides the full range of flying training for all Service personnel, with membership also available for members of the RAF Air Cadets.

Their Mission 'To afford Servicemen and Women, irrespective of rank or trade, the ability to learn to fly at the minimum practical cost' is reflected in their rates which are significantly cheaper than civilian clubs.

As well as air and ground training, the HAC has a full annual programme of expeditions, competitions and fly-outs.

For more details visit the website at www.haltonaeroclub.org.uk or give them a call on 01296 622697. ■



Cadets' Dreams Take Flight ...

Ambitious cadets at 282 (East Ham) Squadron are being given the chance to learn what it's like to fly, thanks to a £7,100 grant, awarded by the RAF Charitable Trust.

The grant was used to purchase a new flight simulator for the London-based squadron, which provides users with the chance to experience flying without leaving the ground.

The highly advanced simulator, a level four part-task trainer, is designed especially for cadets and offers both glider and powered flight simulation.

Honorary Squadron President Group Captain Mike Neville said: "Everyone at 282 Squadron is extremely grateful to the Trust for providing such a substantial grant towards the part-task trainer.

"It provides a real sense of flight and is as close to aircraft operation as you can get without being in the real thing. Given the location of the squadron, there is very little access to RAF activities, and in particular, flying.

But cadets have not let this stifle their dreams. This new technology will benefit cadets both now and into the future, presenting them with the chance to experience the thrill and challenges associated with flying."

Undeterred by the lack of opportunity in the area, staff and cadets at 282 Squadron began an ambitious project to self-fund the simulator, with hopes of generating a greater interest in joining the RAF and furthering understanding of the aerospace environment by providing the opportunity to 'fly'.

Cadet Nicholas Amakye, who is an aspiring pilot and recently awarded an RAF Air Cadet Pilot Scheme scholarship, said: "I am so excited that we have a flight simulator on the squadron! It is hard to get on air experience flights and this will be a great way for cadets to experience the controls of an aircraft."

Flight Lieutenant Chris Booty, Officer Commanding 282 Squadron said: "We have worked so hard over the past three years to get this flight simulator up and running.

"We can provide cadets with a realistic alternative that will equally teach them about the principles of flight and give them the opportunity to take control. It's a fantastic piece of kit."

Justine Morton, RAF Charitable Trust Director, said: "Hearing about the passion and enthusiasm that exists within this squadron is inspiring. It's fantastic to see young people using their initiative to seek new opportunities and taking action to achieve their dreams." ■



Pedal power

Two air cadets from Plymouth and Cornwall Wing have undertaken an epic bike ride in aid of two charities.

Cadet Flight Sergeants Matt O'Brien of 730 (City of Truro) Squadron and Harry Champion of 1225 (St Austell) Squadron set themselves the target of visiting all 23 squadrons in the Wing over just three days – a distance of around 300 kilometres.

Despite the wintry weather, the intrepid duo achieved their aim visiting all the units, including the Volunteer Gliding Squadron at RNAS Predannack on the Lizard Peninsula, before ending their journey at the HQ of Plymouth and Cornwall Wing at RAF St Mawgan.

The pair have raised more than £800 for the Royal Air Forces Association and the John Thornton Young Achievers' Foundation. ■

Cross Country Champs

A team of cadets from 126 (City of Derby) Squadron raced their way to victory in the South and East Midlands Wing cross country competition.

Some 29 teams took part in the event with the Derby cadets declared overall winners after their teams finished highly in every category. They will now go on to represent the Wing at a national level.

As well as the junior girls winning their section, Cadet George Herbert set a new record in the Junior Boys race at the first time of entering the competition! ■

ROYAL AIR FORCE Charitable Trust
promote support encourage



A Hidden Gem in the RAFAC ...

Flight Lieutenant Ruth Morgan, Officer Commanding at 1211 (Swadlincote) Squadron, discusses the value of CVQO-led BTEC qualifications and the benefits her cadets have gained from them.

"I've been working with CVQO to deliver the BTEC programme for over 10 years and have seen the impact that the qualification can have on an individual numerous times.

"I've seen it used as a differentiator; where the thing that elevates one candidate above another is their

dedication to achieving outside of formal education, and that's great. It helps cadets get to where they need to be to achieve their ambitions in a competitive field.

"However, the bit I find more satisfying is when it is the CVQO-led BTEC that opens the door to opportunities that a cadet feel they have missed out on. I've had cadets gain places on engineering and trade skills at college purely on the basis of their BTEC. In these instances, the

achievement of the qualification brings the additional benefits of increased confidence and self-worth.

"Moreover, the skills that are learned in the TPD (Teamwork and Personal Development in the Community) units around employability are directly transferable to 'real life', and we've used the sessions on CVs and personal qualities as a basis for real job applications with great success.

"To me, the main benefits of the CVQO-led BTEC Level 2 are in the formal recognition of the skills and experience gained during a cadet's career.

"The BTEC allows us to translate the team working, the leadership, the citizenship, the personal commitment that is a key

part of any cadet experience into something tangible that employers can relate to.

"I think the CVQO-led BTECs are a bit of a hidden gem in the RAFAC offering, and I would positively encourage any squadron to take up the challenge to run them.

"In real terms, the amount of time required to complete the BTEC Level 2 through CVQO is far less than you might imagine, but the value in terms of long term tangible benefits for the individual cadet is immense.

"With the structured package offered by CVQO, the Extended Certificate is realistically achievable within one parade night. It's the one thing a cadet can leave us with that means something to the wider world without any extra



We are



By Flt Lt Ruth Morgan,
OC 1211 (Swadlincote) Sqn

explanation. It's a bit of a no brainer to me if I'm honest!

"The CVQO Regional Managers are brilliant, and are always on hand to support the delivery of the package, and there's a wealth of experience out in some of the squadrons who would be happy to help with practical advice. As a squadron, we've had well over 150 (although I think it is more like 178) cadets participate in the CVQO-led BTEC Level 2.

"I've seen the scheme develop and change dramatically, which has affected how we facilitate the course, but not the value. With two BTEC courses available at Level 2, there's something for everyone.

"As a hiring manager, I am becoming more involved with the recruitment of graduates and apprentices, both of which are highly competitive markets.

"When I have the pick of the bunch, I want the best people for my team. Particularly for an apprenticeship, I want

CVQO offers two types of BTEC Level 2 qualification: **Teamwork and Personal Development in the Community** and **Music for Practical Performance**.

Both are available through the RAF Air Cadets. Enrolment for both is open now and you can either speak to your Squadron or CVQO directly for more information. ■

people who can manage their time, are proactive and are prepared to take on a challenge to better themselves. Anyone with an additional qualification over and above mainstream education, whatever it is in, shows commitment and perseverance, and is more likely to get shortlisted for interview than a comparable candidate without. I am an absolute advocate for all CVQO led



qualifications. I don't think the uptake is what it should be, and I'm trying to use the experience in my Wing to define why this might be and come up with an improvement plan.

"It's a no-brainer for me; we should definitely be giving it a greater priority than it currently has, but I know like everything else, it needs someone who truly values it to champion it." ■

IMAGE ABOVE: Cadets from 275 (Nantyglo & Blaina) Sqn with their certificates.

“I am an absolute advocate for all CVQO led qualifications ...”



Volunteer: Support a century of service

This year, the Royal Air Force celebrates 100 years in the air. We're proud to support servicemen and women both past and present, and **we need your help**.

We'd love you to **be at the heart of** the celebrations in a city near you as we honour veterans and serving personnel with flypasts, parades and special events.

Can you do your bit? Help us collect for the charities that care for the RAF family.

Everyone can be a part of history. Find your nearest collection and volunteer at rafa.org.uk/raf100volunteer
Volunteers must be 18+

The RAF100 Appeal is a joint venture that supports:





The world's most advanced straight-line racing car, BLOODHOUND SSC, has made its first public runs at Cornwall Airport Newquay, hitting a peak speed of 201mph – and the RAF Air Cadets were there to see it speed by!

The successful test was live streamed around the world and came 20 years after driver Wing Commander Andy Green set the current World Land Speed Record of 763.035mph.

Three thousand spectators, including cadets and staff from Plymouth and

Cornwall Wing, gathered at Newquay to watch the BLOODHOUND team conduct two runs along the 9,000ft (2.7km) runway.

BLOODHOUND SSC, a stunning combination of fast jet, F1 car and spaceship, accelerated at a rate of 1.5G, reaching 200mph from a standing start in just eight seconds.

Power was provided by a Rolls-Royce EJ200 jet engine, normally found in a Eurofighter Typhoon, which produced a peak thrust of 20,000lbs (90 kilonewtons), equivalent to 54,000bhp, or the combined

output of 360 family cars. On completing the test, Andy Green said, "The design and engineering team has done an incredible job with BLOODHOUND SSC. There is development work still to do, of course, but straight out of the box it feels responsive, stable and, above all, tremendously fast.

"Although 200mph is far below the car's ultimate target of 1,000mph, today was a proper workout for the vehicle. The car is designed for high speed on a desert rather than sprint performance off

The Fastest Car *in the World ...*

At full speed, BLOODHOUND SSC will cover a mile (1.6km) in 3.6 seconds - that's 4.5 football pitches laid end to end, per second, or 300m in the blink of an eye.



the line, but it still accelerates from zero to 200mph in less than eight seconds.

"When we run on the dry lake bed at Hakskeen Pan, South Africa, in October, BLOODHOUND SSC will be running on solid aluminium wheels with even less grip than we had here. Data from today's tests, including jet engine performance, aerodynamic stability and the braking distances, will help us plan our World Land Speed Record campaign."

The runway trials mark the culmination of a month of testing which has

helped prove the car's steering, brakes, suspension, data systems and other functions, as well as the integration of the EJ200 jet engine - a power plant more usually found in the Eurofighter Typhoon.

The tests also provided Andy Green with his first opportunity to drive BLOODHOUND SSC, and allowed the team to develop its operating procedures, safety protocols and practice radio communications. On the runway, the car used 84cm diameter wheels shod with pneumatic tyres, originally from

an English Electric Lightning fighter. Specially reconditioned by Dunlop, these have around one-third of the grip of regular car tyres.

As the runway wheels are slightly thicker than their desert equivalents, some sections of the carbon fibre bodywork were not fitted to the car during recent tests. Prior to the public runs, extensive trials were initially carried out with the car chained to the ground, so the team could check the performance of the jet, fuel and electrical systems.



Words & images: Philip Jones



10 ASTOUNDING BLOODHOUND



135,000HP*

Bloodhound SSC has 25,000hp more than the Q2



4.1 LACTATING COWS

The equivalent carbon footprint of the Bloodhound Project



20 TONNES

The drag on the car at 1000mph



55,000

and 500-1000



50,000

The force at the rear of the car
A sugar cube would be crushed



BLOODHOUND'S Chief Engineer Mark Chapman said, "The Newquay tests have gone better than anyone dared hope and that is testament to the many years of research and design invested in BLOODHOUND SSC. It is a one-off prototype with over 3,500 bespoke parts, so to see it performing so well today is a hugely satisfying experience."

Richard Noble, Project Director, added, "These trials at Newquay take us one step closer to setting the next World Land Speed Record."

"They have been a fantastic team effort. The engineers have been on the front line, of course, but supporting them is a host of people who make The BLOODHOUND Project what it is."

"None more so than our Education Team which last year engaged over 130,000 pupils in the UK alone."

"This is delivering results, too, with our university partners reporting great increases in the number of young people taking up engineering as a result of the BLOODHOUND Project. That is our goal and the reward for all this effort."

The cadets and staff were on hand throughout the three days of trials, ensuring the venue looked its best before an audience of investors, sponsors and schoolchildren.

Cadets were also actively involved in the distribution of event programmes and acting as "greeters" to visitors and helped mark the crowd line which, of course, meant that many had the best view of the day.

After the car's runs, cadets helped organise a rocket-powered model car competition for the visitors as well as being free to explore the many Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEAM) activities that were being run by the project's sponsors.

Cadet Corporal Ella Arul from 1387 (Liskeard) Squadron said that she had heard about the Bloodhound project and this was a unique opportunity to learn about it, "I have been staffing various venues today to help make the event run as smoothly as possible."

Further details of this exciting project can be found at their website:

www.bloodhoundssc.com ■

ING FACTS ABOUT HOUND SSC



0 500
**10000
SECONDS**
00 in 17 seconds!

10000g
m of the wheel at 10,200 rpm.
ould weigh more than two men

25,000 ft

The altitude Bloodhound would reach
if it were fired straight up into the air

3.6 SECONDS
Time taken to do the flying mile

180 DECIBELS
The hybrid rocket could be louder than a 747 at take off!

3,000 °C
The temperature in the
rocket is twice as hot as
the inside of a volcano

64,000 L/SEC
The EJ 200 jet engine
could suck all the air
out of an average
house in 3 seconds

*Strictly speaking your bloodshot compares the output of jets and rockets in terms of horsepower - regardless of how they're moving - use the thrust instead.



Sleaford Hot Shots

Cadets from 2160 (Sleaford) Squadron's are celebrating their most successful year in the Air Cadet Air Rifle postal shooting competition.

They scooped first place in the three position and second and third in the two position team competitions as well as the squadron's Cadet Warrant Officer Alex Myers taking the award for the overall highest scoring male cadet.

The competition, which is open to all 900 plus squadrons around the country, attracts some very talented young marksmen and women and is shot over five separate rounds.

Guided by their coaches Civilian Instructor Martin Tokley, Flying Officer Paul Blackman and RAF assistant SAC Rachel Carlin each cadet progressively improved their performance over each round of the competition.

Martin said: "This was an excellent effort by all teams, individuals and reserves. We did well in the final round and narrowly missed out on first place in the 2 Position competition.

"The teams are not resting on their laurels, however, preparations are already underway for this year's competition." ■

IMAGE ABOVE: Steve Hullott and the Sleaford Air Rifle teams with the Overall Three Position Champions Trophy.

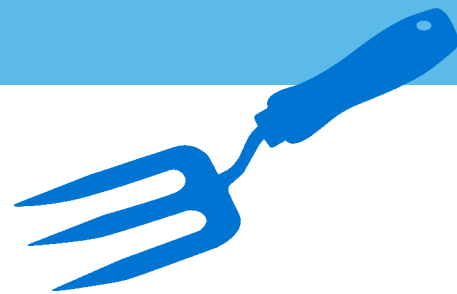


Planting a Legacy

To commemorate the RAF Centenary and the 77th Anniversary of the RAF Air Cadets, Greater Manchester Wing is set to plant more than 300 trees.

Cadets from the 37 squadrons of Greater Manchester Wing will be planting the trees supported by cadet forces adult volunteers. It is hoped that future generations, whether they be cadets of the RAF Air Cadets or the community as a whole, will enjoy the lasting legacy to the Greater Manchester Wing and the local environment.

The trees will be planted on Parkway Playing Fields not far from the site of Alexandra Park Aerodrome – the landing airfield for the first domestic passenger flight after the First World War in 1919 and also the home of 184 (South Manchester)



Squadron. The trees, which all have strong links to the ethos of the RAF and RAF Air Cadets have been supplied by the Woodland Trust in conjunction with Manchester City of Trees, Heritage Trees and Lottery Funding.

This is one of many national projects to mark RAF100, the Centenary of the Royal Air Force. Other events which include the RAF Air Cadets include a 100-day baton relay, a flagship Aerospace Camp, international expeditions and parades in cities across the country. ■

Going the Extra Mile

Cadets and staff from 372 (Barry) Squadron have gone the extra mile for their local community.

Led from the front by squadron boss, Flight Lieutenant Jason Horton, cadets and staff have taken part in 31 public events, raised £6,640 for charity and

contributed more than 1,139 hours of cadet assistance to charities and events.

In recognition of their efforts, the squadron has been awarded the Charles Whitcombe Trophy – a regional award competed for by the 159 squadrons in Wales and West Region. ■

On a High Note

Cadet musicians from across Central & East Region are preparing for another busy year of performances.

Under the direction of Squadron Leader Alan Glover, supported by Warrant Officer Mike Jefferies, Corps Bandmaster, both the Marching Band and the Concert Band were put through their paces during a weekend of hard practice at RAF Henlow. The drummers and Drum Majors of the Marching Band honed their skills too as cadets from the Concert Band, who also made up the Region's Marching Band, mastered the difficult task of carrying and playing their instruments whilst marching in step.

"The talent and enthusiasm of the cadets never ceases to amaze me and it was such a pleasure watching these individuals blending together to make such fine music," said the Region's Media and Communications Officer, Squadron Leader Al Munns.

He continued: "None of this would be possible without the skill and dedication of the volunteer staff who have given up yet another weekend to ensure the Band Camp happened and the Region has musicians to be proud of."

Central and East Region are interested in musicians of Grade 3 and above to join this talented group and fulfil the engagements already in the diary. If you are interested, please contact band.ce@aircadets.org ■

New Insignia for Adult Staff ...

The RAF Air Cadets' newest Pilot Officers graduate with the new Cadet Forces Commission at RAF Cranwell.

At the beginning of December last year, most VR(T) commissioned officers in the RAF Air Cadets were moved on to the new Cadet Forces Commission.

The new commission, which was approved by Her Majesty The Queen, acknowledges the role Cadet Force Adult Volunteers in the RAF Air Cadets, Army Cadet Force and the Sea Cadets perform as national youth leaders.

By coincidence, the first graduation for 15 new officers for the RAF Air Cadets fell on December 1st, meaning each new graduating officer could wear the new RAFAC insignia for the first time as many other officers across the organisation.

Monumental

Pilot Officer Jon Dawson was the first to receive his commissioning scroll from the reviewing officer Commandant Air Cadets, Air Commodore Dawn McCafferty. Jon, who had been both an air cadet and spent eight years as an adult NCO, said: "It feels fantastic to be the first graduating student to receive the new commission.

"It's a monumental change to not just the air cadets but to the other cadet forces as well and to be the first cadet forces' commissioned officer is daunting but fantastic at the same time really."

Charlotte Wilde and Charlotte Smith both work with CCF(RAF) cadet units and were both excited to have graduated and looking forward to taking their freshly learned skills back to their contingents.

Exciting

Charlotte Wilde said: "It's just really exciting. We didn't know anything beforehand and this is the first time the new commission has been awarded so we're just really excited to be part of the organisation and to be about to help out the young people at our cadet unit.

Charlotte Smith said: "I'm one of the first officers at my school and now that I'm representing the RAF I'm really excited to go back and wear my stripes

and encourage the ethos that we have been taught this week."

Alongside the changes to the VR(T) commission and insignia, the decision was made to update the SNCO insignia too, thus ensuring all the branding is the same. Although the new insignia came into force at the beginning of December, the 13 new graduates on SIC 30/17 are the first SNCOs to graduate since the change.

Opportunity

Commandant Air Cadets was the reviewing officer for the presentation and congratulated the new sergeants on graduating in a 'milestone year for the RAF Air Cadets'.

Air Commodore Dawn McCafferty said: "You're stepping forward to take

responsibility and to support the running of the RAF Air Cadets. I know there is a minimum commitment and you all give more than that, so I'm very grateful for every hour and minute that you give at squadron level."

Former cadet Sergeant Esther Taylor 1082 (Brimington and District) Squadron, was the course leader for this intake.

She said: "I loved being a cadet and I wanted to be able to help other cadets to develop and to experience stuff that I didn't quite manage to experience when I was a cadet and to give them the opportunity to go on into whatever they want to achieve whether that is in civilian or military life." ■





Giving back ...

The tenth Qualified Aerospace Instructors Course (QAIC) is well underway with nearly 40 cadets from across the country working towards qualifying in the next few weeks.

Uniquely within the RAFAC, the course is run simultaneously in two locations by covering the same topics on the same dates with half of the cadets being based at MOD Boscombe Down in Wiltshire and the other half at RAF Linton-on-Ouse in Yorkshire.

The facilities of the resident Region Activities Centres (RACs) support the training. The course runs between September and the following Easter with cadets attending one of the two centres that operate the course for a weekend each month.

There is always preparation or research work to be done between the formal training weekends. This is no attendance course and throughout the students are treated as, and are expected to perform as, young professionals on the verge of progressing into the career workspace.

Eighteen year old Cadet Warrant Officer Darrell Kovac is from 31 (Tower Hamlets) Squadron. He qualified on QAIC Course nine and has returned to help teach the cadets on Course 10.

Darrell said: "I love giving back. It is good to be able to help the current cadets through the course and to see the result of your work. We also have a good laugh too!"

Also back to help teach the new students is 19-year-old CWO Ellie Hough from 181 (City of Gloucester) Squadron. She helps teach the Air Traffic Control module which is appropriate as she works at Staverton Airport in that specialism. Ellie is also the Lead QAI cadet for Course

10 acting as a single point of contact between the cadets and Directing Staff. Like CWO Kovac she hopes to go on to join the RAF as aircrew.

As well as covering the academic elements of the course, students also learn leadership, teamwork and presentation skills culminating in assessed, formal presentations attended by such dignitaries as Air Officer Commanding 22 Group, RAF and Commandant Air Cadets.

Once the course is completed, cadets attend a formal graduation dinner in an RAF Officers' Mess. When in uniform, a light blue lanyard distinguishes QAIs.

Then what?

Every year the course produces around 40 fully qualified aerospace instructor cadets (QAIs) able to safely operate all the facilities in the RACs around the country as well as teach the aerospace elements of our core syllabus at Squadron and other venues.

QAIs learn such subjects as air power, Air Traffic Control, flight planning and more to a higher level than is needed for the cadet exams and are keen to impart their knowledge if asked.

Many units have access to computerised flight simulators and QAIs can readily provide exercises that lift these programs out of the realms of "games" and into proper training aids.

In essence the QAIs are a valuable resource for local areas to impart aerospace knowledge to younger and less experienced cadets.

The course is open to all cadets (ATC or CCF(RAF)) with a deadline for submission of nominations in July for a course commencement date in the following September. ■



High Flier

Ex-Longbenton air cadet, James Nealings, is flying high after passing out at RAF College Cranwell to become an RAF Officer and begin his RAF pilot training.

The 22-year-old successfully completed the challenging 24-week course that included fitness development, military training and academic study, as well as practical outdoor leadership challenges.

Back in 2015, James earned his pilot's licence and was named top pilot in the RAF Air Cadets, winning a scholarship with the Geoffrey de Havilland Flying Foundation before becoming a volunteer gliding instructor.

Flying Officer Nealings said: "I absolutely love flying and have missed it during my initial officer training. The training was hard – probably harder than flying – but it was an experience I'll never forget! Joining the RAF Air Cadets was the best decision I made. It helped me grow, mature and develop and it has led me on the road to making my dream job and life a reality."

James will soon begin his specialist Elementary Flying Training, flying the Tutor aircraft – an aircraft he first flew as an air cadet. ■



Cross Channel Swim Hat-trick

Cadet Sergeant Jack Fitzpatrick of 1063 (Herne Bay) Squadron has swum the English Channel for a third time as part of a relay team which included his mum Sandra, with dad, Squadron Leader Brian Fitzpatrick, in the support boat.

Jack has previously swum the Channel as part of the RAF Air Cadet 75th Cross Channel Swim team, providing the inspiration for his mum.

She said: "I've always been a keen swimmer. I lived in Folkestone and my parents used to take me up to the cliffs and we looked out across the channel at the coast of France and I thought it would be a good idea even then."

A team of like-minded people, calling themselves The Herne Baythers, was formed and began their training in a local indoor pool before sea swimming off the coast of Dover.



Jack said: "We held regular meetings and I was able to provide a lot of information from my previous swim."

"Once we were on the boat my experience as an SNCO really helped when I was giving reassurance and guidance to the rest of the team, who at times were overwhelmed by the event."

Jack led the team of six setting off at 8.55am from Shakespeare Beach. As before, he took the team through the Separation Zone towards France but, for the first time, had to get in for a third swim, this time at night. With the swim underway, Brian Fitzpatrick had his work cut out, not only supporting the team with refreshments and encouragement but also keeping his balance throughout the journey!

Sandra began the last swim of the crossing at 11pm and said: "I was a bit unnerved by swimming in the dark and the pilot saying you really need to go for it."

"The pilot escorted me in the last 500m in an inflatable dinghy until finally I found a rock to steady myself and stood up with



my arms held high to signify the end of our challenge."

The time recorded for The Herne Baythers was 14 hours 43 minutes.

Of the whole experience Sandra said: "I was absolutely elated after our swim. This has been a life changing experience for me because of the people I have met along the way."

Brian added: "I am very proud of Sandra and could not have imagined from our first meeting as respective members of the Herne Bay Girls Venture Corps and Air Training Corps that we would be sharing this family adventure with our son Jack." ■

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MAIN IMAGE: Wg Cdr Helen Gerrish (Front row, third right) with Commandant Air Cadets and other delegates at the recent Duke Of Edinburgh conference.



The Golden Thread

When you do your DofE you give back to others; you practise the skills that are important to you; you test your own limits and stretch your horizons. It's the golden thread that runs through everything the RAF Air Cadets do ...

At the recent DofE conference, attended by 51 delegates representing 29 Wings, Air Commodore Dawn McCafferty, Commandant Air Cadets, praised the work done by the DofE team and talked about 'the golden thread' that runs through everything we do.

She also took the opportunity to present Wg Cdr Gerrish with a gift in recognition of her contribution to the DofE. Wg Cdr Gerrish retires at the end of March and is succeeded by Sqn Ldr Andy Flynn (pictured top right), currently the Central and East Region DofE Officer. The conference started with all delegates

receiving verification training from Ms Sam Bennie, the DofE Operations Manager, and this was followed by an in depth look at DofE performance in the air cadets.

Training issues were then covered and the conference resumed on Sunday morning with Wg Cdr Stuart McNeill giving an update on HQAC issues.

Sue Emerson, who recently retired from the DofE, was the guest presenter and gave an informative talk on working with people with special needs.

The conference ended with Wg Cdr Gerrish giving a review of DofE activity over the last ten years.

So how does this 'golden thread' manifest itself in the RAF Air Cadets' training programme? There are four

sections to the DofE (five at Gold level) and the roundel shows how these sections slot into the Air Cadet Training programme, particularly at the Bronze level.

Skills

- First Aid Training - Heart start, Youth First Aider
- Parade Training - Drill
- Airborne - flight simulator
- Aviation studies
- Shooting - weapons training, marksmanship
- Field craft

Volunteering

- Leadership – courses followed by delivery of subject knowledge

By Wg Cdr Helen Gerrish,
Corps DofE Development Officer



- Service Engagement - local parades and events, helping on squadron with canteen and stores

Physical

- Sports – individual activities

Expedition

- Adventure training – Bronze NNAS
- Practical expedition skills training

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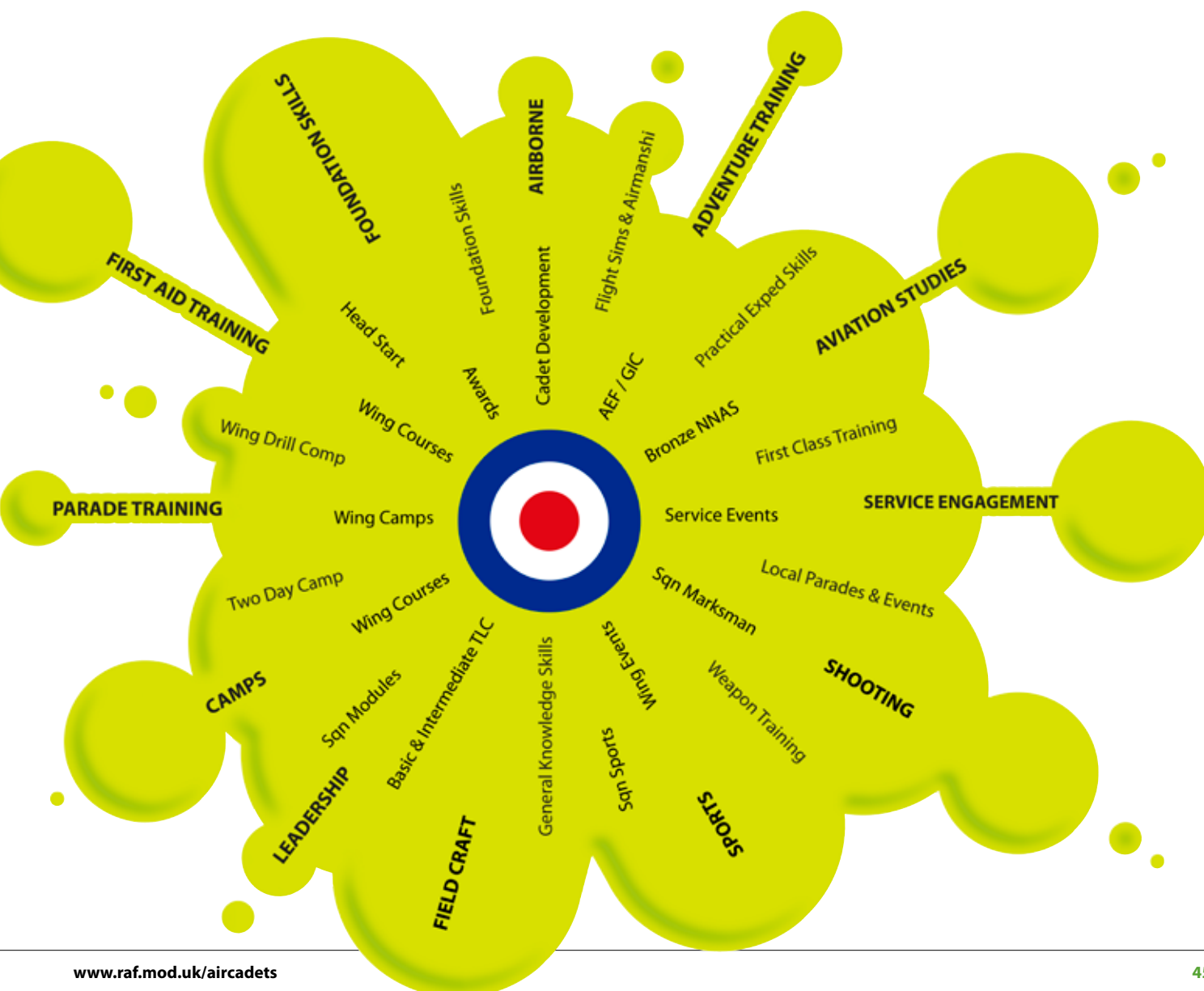
Some key points:

- All activities must span the duration of the section with an average of one hour per week spent on the activity.
- Goals must be set with an assessor, who has knowledge of the activity and who will write a report on its completion.
- Check that the activity falls into the correct section before starting.

Everyone should be able to achieve a Bronze Award by taking part in air cadet activities, but this does not stop them from following an activity outside of the air cadets if that is their choice. ■



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