

CADET LINK

AUTUMN 2024



**CCF CADETS SOAR HIGH
AT RAF BENSON**
PAGE 12



**SURREY SCOUTS SIGN ARMED
FORCES COVENANT**
PAGE 25



**CADETS FROM 18 TROOP WINDSOR
COMMEMORATE D-DAY**
PAGE 25



**RETIREMENT OF SEA CADET
COMMANDER**
PAGE 19

PROMOTING THE CADET EXPERIENCE

contents

SERFCA

- 4 Cadets in the South East
- 6 Buckinghamshire cadets First Aid Competition

COMBINED CADET FORCES

- 8 Alton School Combined Cadet Force's leap of faith
- 9 Gordon's School Pipes and Drums Combined Cadet Force
- 10 Cadet Cambrian Patrol, are you tough enough?
- 11 The Journey of a Young Royal Navy Aspirant
- 12 Stowe CCF Cadets Soar High at RAF Benson
- 12 Experiencing it in the field
- 13 Exercise Guardian of Thunder
- 14 Combined Cadet Force biographies

SERFCA

- 15 What is a Cadet Force Adult Volunteer?

VOLUNTEER CADET CORPS

- 16 Volunteer Cadets Corps reflect on the last six months of success

SEA CADET CORPS

- 18 Southern Area Sea Cadets spring update 2024

- 19 Retirement of Sea Cadet Corps (SCC) Southern Area Officer - Commander Trevor Price Royal Navy
- 20 Sea Cadet biographies

ARMY CADETS

- 21 Army Cadets Charitable Trust UK 2023 Excellence Awards
- 22 Like Father like Son
- 23 Normandy battle camp at the Urban Training Centre
- 24 Army Cadet biographies
- 25 Cadets from 18 Troop Windsor commemorate D-Day with Mountbatten Grange Care Home residents

EMPLOYER ENGAGEMENT

- 25 Surrey Scouts sign Armed Forces Covenant

AIR CADETS

- 26 Hampshire & IOW Wing RAF Air Cadets are flying high!
- 27 Sussex Wing Royal Air Force Air Cadets (RAFAC) annual field day and parade
- 28 Air Cadet biographies

SERFCA

- 30 Ullswater April 2024

Foreword by Wing Commander Mark Trevena RAFAC, Officer Commanding, Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wing RAF Air Cadets



Although the summer is traditionally a time we go to annual camps, as Wing Commander, it gives me a time to reflect on the impact we have made so far in the year.

We continue to see a continued period of change within the RAF Air Cadets but one thing remains the same in that the cadet experiences we offer still provides huge value and are highly transferable to civilian and service careers alike.

One example within Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wing are our synthetic aerospace training opportunities. In addition to two fixed centres, we are also able to deploy PC based aviation simulators anywhere within the Wing boundary and beyond. In addition to flight simulation, we are now also

introducing STEM and drone elements.

The benefits are highly tangible in that our cadets are able to get more from "real" flying and gliding, while also performing to higher standards at the national Qualified Aerospace Instructor Courses and also at solo flying opportunities.

We also engage with our sister cadet services in Hampshire at the Connaught Challenge, a joint competition day, by inviting cadets to our fixed centre and also deploying simulators to their detachments. What makes this project happen is an incredible team of Cadet Force Adult Volunteers and cadets who have created a full ecosystem so that we make the very best of our assets.

There is a full story later in this edition of Cadet Link and you will note that this project only happened thanks to the amazing support from The Connaught Trust and SERFCA.



WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO...

South East Reserve Forces' and Cadets' Association (SERFCA)

We are one of 13 RFCAs UK-wide. **SERFCA** is a Ministry of Defence (MOD) Crown body, responsible to the Defence Council, but separate from the Military chain-of-command. SERFCA's core outputs are; Volunteer Estate, Civil/Employer Engagement and Cadets & Youth.

Managing the volunteer estate through building new centres, maintaining buildings to the required legal standard and ensuring that all sites are kept in good condition, fit for purpose and secure. We aim to provide an attractive environment in which to recruit, train, refresh the spirit of our volunteers and in some venues; generate income for the benefit of Reserves and Cadets.

Civil and Employer Engagement for Reserves, Cadets and the Armed Forces society through engagement events, briefings and award ceremonies, allowing us to actively inform, influence, engage and create a positive but lasting change with key influencers. We also connect Defence with society through schemes such as the Armed Forces Covenant and the Employer Recognition scheme.

Promoting the Cadet Experience and Championing the Value of Reserve Forces by employing the Professional Support Staff within the Army Cadet Force and promoting their activities over online and offline media as well as funding necessary recruitment aids.

CADETS IN THE SOUTH EAST



Combined Cadet Force

HAMPSHIRE – ALDERSHOT 1

Combined Cadet Force for the South East
SO2 Cadets, Headquarters South East,
Roebuck House, Cavans Road, Aldershot GU11 2LQ
Tel: 01252 347888



VOLUNTEER CADET CORPS

ROYAL NAVAL & ROYAL MARINES CADETS

HAMPSHIRE – PORTSMOUTH 2

Headquarters Volunteer Cadet Corps
Royal Navy Cadet Forces Training Centre, Building 175,
HMS Excellent, Whale Island, Portsmouth, Hampshire PO2 8ER
Tel: 023 9254 7495



HAMPSHIRE – PORTSMOUTH 2

Southern Area Sea Cadet Headquarters
Old Management Building, HMS NELSON, HM Naval Base,
Portsmouth PO1 3HH
Tel: 023 9272 5664



ARMY CADETS

BERKSHIRE – READING 3

The Royal County of Berkshire Army Cadet Force
Brock Barracks, Oxford Road, Reading RG30 1HW
Tel: 0118 902 3540

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE – AYLESBURY 4

Buckinghamshire (The Rifles) Army Cadet Force
Army Reserve Centre, Viney House, Oxford Road,
Aylesbury HP19 8RN
Tel: 01296 744553

HAMPSHIRE & IOW – WINCHESTER 5

Hampshire and Isle of Wight Army Cadet Force
Newburgh House, Newburgh Street, Winchester SO23 8UY
Tel: 01962 865711

KENT – MAIDSTONE 6

Kent Army Cadet Force
Yeomanry House, Boxley Road, Maidstone ME14 2AR
Tel: 01622 750328

OXFORDSHIRE – BICESTER 7

Oxfordshire (The Rifles) Army Cadet Force
Brotheridge House, St George's Barracks, Arncott Wood Road,
Upper Arncott, Bicester OX25 1AB
Tel: 01869 259681

SURREY – GODALMING 8

Surrey (PWRR Bn) Army Cadet Force
Queens House, Hallam Road, Farncombe, Godalming GU7 3HW
Tel: 01483 425371

SUSSEX – BRIGHTON 9

Sussex Army Cadet Force
Highcroft House, 198 Dyke Road, Brighton, East Sussex BN1 5AS
Tel: 01273 552222



ABINGDON – THAMES VALLEY WING 10

Thames Valley Wing Headquarters RAF Air Cadets
Edward Brooks Barracks, Cholswell Road,
Shippon, Abingdon, OX13 6HW
Tel: 01235 547990

MAIDSTONE – KENT WING 6

Kent Wing Headquarters RAF Air Cadets
2 Yeomanry Cottages, Boxley Road, Maidstone ME14 2AR
Tel: 01622 754188

EASTBOURNE – SUSSEX WING 11

Sussex Wing Headquarters RAF Air Cadets
Carter Barracks, Seaside Road, Eastbourne BN22 7NL
Tel: 01323 899900

SOUTH LONDON – SURREY WING 12

Surrey Wing Headquarters RAF Air Cadets
Building 63, RAF Northolt, Middlesex HA4 6NG
Tel: 020 8542 4893

WINCHESTER – HAMPSHIRE & IOW WING 5

Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wing Headquarters RAF Air Cadets
Newburgh House, Newburgh Street, Winchester SO23 8UY
Tel: 01962 890728

CADETS TRAINING CENTRES

NATIONAL – CAMBERLEY 13

Cadet Training Centre
Frimley Park, Frimley Road, Camberley GU16 7HD
Tel: 01276 898205

BERKSHIRE – TADLEY 14

Berkshire Cadet Training Centre
Campbell Road, Bramley, Tadley RG26 5BQ
Tel: 01256 883610

HAMPSHIRE – LISS 15

Hampshire Cadet Training Centre
Longmoor Training Camp, Longmoor, Liss GU33 6EL
Tel: 01420 538567

ISLE OF WIGHT – PORCHFIELD 16

Isle of Wight Cadet Training Centre
Jersey Camp & Newtown Range, Locks Green, Porchfield,
Isle of Wight PO30 4PF
Tel: 01983 523503

KENT – FOLKESTONE 17

Kent Cadet Training Centre
Diggate Camp, St Martin's Plain, Folkestone CT20 3JG
Tel: 01303 261947

OXFORDSHIRE – BICESTER 7

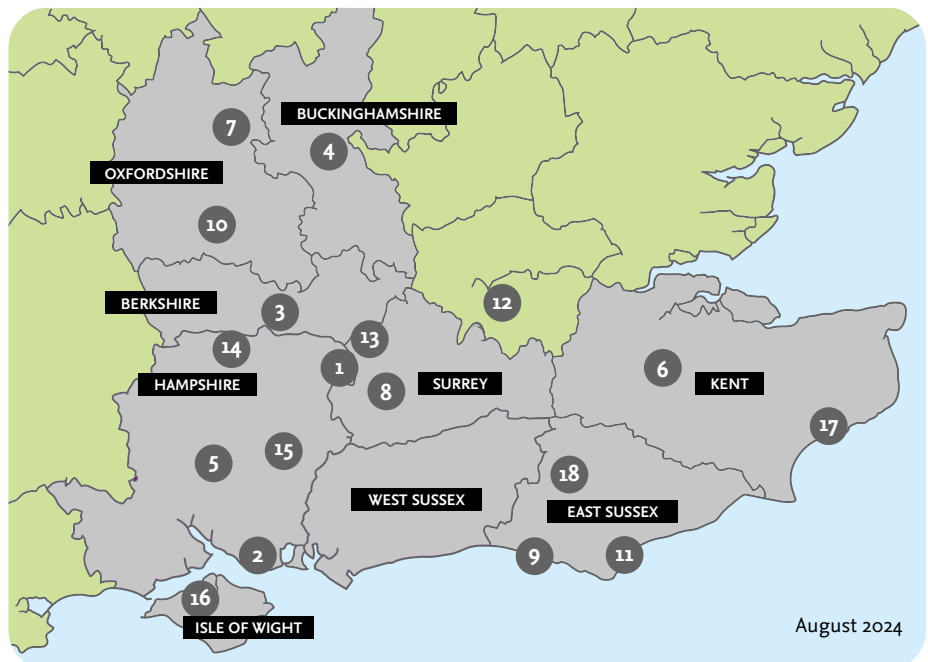
Buckinghamshire / Oxfordshire Cadet Training Centre
Read House, St George's Barracks, Arncott Wood Road,
Upper Arncott, Bicester OX25 1AB
Tel: 01869 259681

SURREY – GODALMING 8

Surrey Cadet Training Centre
Queen's House, Hallam Road, Farncombe, Godalming GU7 3HW
Tel: 01483 425371

SUSSEX – CROWBOROUGH 18

Sussex Cadet Training Centre
Crowborough Camp, Beacon Road, Crowborough TN6 1UB
Tel: 01892 667968



August 2024



The Connaught Trust
Funding Reserves and Cadets

Thinking of applying for a grant?

Our grant funding can help with activities and equipment such as:

- Summer Camps
- Improvements to Existing Facilities
- Sports Equipment
- Transport Facilities
- Training Equipment
- Adventurous Training Expeditions

Apply Now!



www.connaught-trust.co.uk

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE CADETS

First Aid Competition



ON SATURDAY 11TH MAY 2024, THE ANNUAL BUCKINGHAMSHIRE INTER-CADET COMPETITION WAS HELD AGAIN AT THE AYLESBURY ARMY RESERVE CENTRE, VINEY HOUSE WITH 13 TEAMS FROM ACROSS THE ARMY CADET FORCE (ACF), SEA CADET CORPS (SCC) AND THE COMBINED CADET FORCE (CCF) RAF SECTIONS TAKING PART. EACH TEAM CONSISTING OF 4 CADETS.

Presentation of the awards was made by Lieutenant Colonel (Lt Col) Simon Wilkinson DL. Also in attendance were Lt Col Lyndon Robinson, Chair of Buckinghamshire SERFCA, Colonel Alan Holder, Commandant Buckinghamshire ACF and Lieutenant Commander Steve Shepherd, District Officer for Oxfordshire & Buckinghamshire Sea Cadet Corps.

There were competition stands in the morning: assessing competitors' primary survey skills, CPR, open fractures, wound care and casualty management. The fire service provided training to ensure our competitors were ready for the 'major incident' in the afternoon. The major incident this year was a gas explosion; the cadets had to retrieve a casualty who was hidden within a tunnel system and then perform first aid on them. The competitors were then met with further casualties who had suffered severe burns to their hands and face and debris in the eye and not to mention the persistent bystanders trying

to film the action. All competitors performed well under pressure and we saw entries from the Air Training Corps plus the Sea Cadet Corps.

Thank you to all our competitors, actors, Bucks Fire and Rescue and South Central Ambulance Service.



Lt Col Simon Wilkinson DL said:

“Thank you for the hospitality that I received on Saturday on what is a really positive event in the County. It was great to see the Cadets getting stuck in and with all the gusto and energy of a real live exercise and the role players added so much to the occasion with the screaming and shouting and shocking the cadets before they regained their composure and tackled the situation, what great initiation.

The Fire engine was a great asset. I have to confess to laughing out loud when the young cadet was trying to douse the burns of the injured adult volunteer with the hose and turned it on more or less full pressure and soaked him!

Every year a Cadet somewhere saves a life. It has happened at least twice in Bucks in the last 5 years and your role here, with the Adult volunteers is so significant to these young people and our wider community.

Please pass on my best wishes and enormous thanks to all involved. It was such a good event and it was great to see the Fire Brigade and South Central Ambulance Service bringing their professionalism and skills to the day.

Well done.”



Squadron Leader Jerry Davies, Chair of the Buckinghamshire Joint Services Cadet and Youth Committee, added:

“I wholeheartedly agree with the sentiments from Lt Col Wilkinson regarding those life skills and the need to know which could eventually save lives.

Those skills learnt through cadet and youth organisations have certainly saved lives. When I was an Officer Commanding (OC) of an Air Training Corps (ATC) Squadron, one of my cadets saved the life of an unknown individual through CPR and what they had learnt on the unit.

It was also very interesting to see how the cadets reacted under the

pressure of not only the casualties and those very realistic simulated injuries but the overall situation and also with the distractions of the rather energetic and robust crowd.

I sincerely hope that other youth groups will compete in next year's competition and take part in the challenge in what is a great training day.

The day was organised and arranged by Captain Amanda Hodges - OC of E Company ACF and in conjunction with South Central Ambulance Service, Buckinghamshire Fire & Rescue and Stoke Mandeville Clinical skills team. A great thank you to all those who gave up their time and skills to ensure the success of the day and the training provided.”



ALTON SCHOOL COMBINED CADET FORCE'S LEAP OF FAITH



SOMEWHERE BACK IN THE DISTANT PAST, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE AUTUMN TERM, A SENIOR CADET ASKED WHETHER WE COULD GO SKY DIVING. 'WHY NOT?' WAS MY RESPONSE, ALTHOUGH MY HEAD TEACHER WAS VISIBLY PALED WHEN I TOLD HIM WHAT WE WERE PLANNING.

Sergeant Taylor got in touch with the Army Parachuting Centre at Netheravon and the process of completing risk assessments and paperwork began.

We were lucky enough to secure funding from the Combined Cadets Forces Association (CCFA) to cover the majority of the cost which enabled the nine cadets involved to focus on fundraising. The cadets chose to raise money for The British Heart

Foundation and the CCFA.

Our jump was planned for the first Saturday of the Easter holiday, as we needed to wait for all our senior cadets to reach the magic age of 16.

We watched the weather forecast anxiously as there were several days of high winds in the preceding week. Some cadets were excited, some were apprehensive and one or two were so nervous that they considered withdrawing.

We were warmly welcomed at Netheravon and put through our training, kitted out in jumpsuits and harnesses, introduced to our tandem partners and allocated our time slots.

Thankfully we didn't have long to wait and once we were on the aeroplane we knew we only had one way to get back down again.

We had approximately 45 seconds of freefall before the 'chutes

opened. A truly exhilarating experience followed by a calm decent and a surprisingly gentle landing. All the pre-flight nerves had transformed to beaming smiles and a huge sense of pride.

The team at Netheravon were amazing and as an event to celebrate the end of these cadets' CCF careers this was an awesome thing to do.

Capt Victoria Knight
Contingent Commander



GORDON'S SCHOOL PIPES AND DRUMS COMBINED CADET FORCE



THE CADETS OF GORDON'S SCHOOL PIPES AND DRUMS HAVE BEEN BUSY AT VARIOUS EVENTS OVER THE LAST FEW MONTHS.

On 26th January, pipers and drummers attended Sandown Races for their Grand Military Gold Cup Day where the opening performance was through the generations: The Chelsea Pensioners opened the event with a pace-sticking display, followed by a performance from their Choir then a performance from the Army Medical Service Military Band; followed by a finale of the cadets of Gordon's School Pipes and Drums marching out to join the Chelsea Pensioners and the Army Medical Service Band in front of guests. The guest of honour was Lieutenant General Sir Roly Walker, the Deputy Chief of Defence Staff.

Supporting the local garrison, the Pipes and Drums featured as part of Aldershot Military Museum's 40th birthday celebrations on 20th April.

To mark the 80th anniversary of D-Day, the Pipes and Drums were invited by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission to feature as part of their event 'An Evening at Brookwood' on 17th May which was in commemoration of all those who were involved or sadly lost their

lives that day. The Pipes and Drums concluded the event and one cadet had the honour of receiving the Torch of Commemoration after a minute's silence.

The cadets have had the unique opportunity of attending 494 Fighter Squadron's (The Black Panthers) Change of Command Ceremony by personal request of the outgoing Commander. It was an honour for the Pipes and Drums to be a part of the Ceremony and to play 'The Star Spangled Banner' as well as 'God Save the King' as part of the ceremony.

Finally, to mark Armed Forces Day, the Pipes and Drums had a jam-packed weekend at three different events. On the Saturday morning, they supported The Soldier Academy's Armed Forces Day picnic in Pirbright village on the Green; then in the

evening they went to Hungerford and led a Parade through the town to the site where Eisenhower addressed the Allied troops before the D-Day invasion. There, the Merville Battery WW2 memorial was unveiled and a short ceremony was held to commemorate D-Day and the Pipe Corporal played the Lament during the laying of wreaths. They then returned to Hungerford the next day to perform to spectators for the Armed Forces Day celebration held in the grounds of the Rugby Club.

Mrs Iona Scotson
Senior Pipe Major



CADET CAMBRIAN PATROL, ARE YOU TOUGH ENOUGH?

Over the weekend of 17-19 May, a team of 8 cadets from Maidstone Grammar School Army Section took part in the prestigious Cadet Cambrian Patrol Competition 2024. The annual national fieldcraft and tactics competition, run by HQ 160th (Welsh) Brigade.

We arrived at the Sennybridge Training Area in the Brecon Beacons on the 17th May. In the 48 hours that followed, our abilities and skills as cadets, such as teamwork, communication, fieldcraft and tactics, identifying targets, estimating ranges and map reading, were tested along a 30km course across the Brecon Beacons.

The course was physically and mentally strenuous but we conducted ourselves with professionalism and camaraderie, leading to everyone completing the course. The team's favourite moments can be narrowed down to three key points: defending a building against waves of enemy forces while being supported by a friendly machine gun team, spotting targets 3km away for friendly artillery and the moment we pulled into a McDonald's on the journey back.

In conclusion, we come away from the 2024 Cambrian Patrol Competition with an understanding of our strengths and weaknesses, and we will act on these for next year.



A Challenging Two-Day Exercise

- During the event, each patrol team navigated approximately 25 kilometres of challenging terrain. This demanding exercise required them to move unsupervised from one stand to another, completing various tasks designed to confirm and test their knowledge of the Army Cadet Syllabus (ACS). The teams aimed to achieve a gold, silver, bronze or certificate standard based on their performance.

Testing Skills and Knowledge

- The stands included a variety of challenging tasks such as First Aid, Casualty Evacuation (Casevac), section defence, section attacks, orders/models, Communications and Information Systems (CIS) and Observation Posts (OPs). These tasks tested the cadets' skills in navigation, physical fitness, first aid,

fieldcraft and tactics, teamwork, and leadership.

The Army Cadets gives young people - from all walks of life - access to fun, friendship, action and adventure. We challenge young people to learn more, do more and try more. We inspire them to aim high and go further in life, no matter what they aim to do. With over 72,000 cadets and 10,000 adults in more than 1,600 locations around the UK, the Army Cadets makes a big impact on young people, adults, parents, and communities.

For further information, contact phighway@mgs.kent.sch.uk or call **01622 752101**, or visit us at armycadets.com.





THE JOURNEY OF A YOUNG ROYAL NAVY ASPIRANT

In a world where dreams often seem to hang just out of reach, there are those who defy expectations and soar to heights previously unimagined. Meet Cadet Yogi Ashworth of Ryde School Combined Cadet Force (CCF), a 17-year-old student with aspirations to join the Royal Navy as a Fleet Air Arm pilot. Yogi's journey began when he joined the CCF Royal Navy (RN) Section at his school in Year 9, a decision that would set him on a course destined for the clouds.

Right from the start of his cadet's journey, Yogi showed real potential with his diligence and thirst for learning and made the most of the opportunities offered by the Royal Navy. As a result, he has attended a variety of camps and courses which helped him expand his leadership skills among many others. At the start of this year and with unwavering determination, Yogi embarked on a path less

travelled by most of his peers, he applied for the Royal Navy Cadet Naval Aviation Programme. Through rigorous training and dedication, he achieved a milestone that many only dream of – earning his Cadet Naval Bronze Wings, where he was awarded third best student overall on the entire course. This achievement marked the beginning of his aerial odyssey, propelling him ever closer to his ultimate goal to become a Fleet Air Arm pilot with the Royal Navy.

As Yogi prepares to embark on his next course for his Silver Wings, his determination to succeed remains unwavering. But his sights are set even higher still, for beyond the silver lies the gleaming promise of gold – and with it, the key to his own Private Pilot Licence. It's a goal that Yogi pursues with unrelenting fervour, knowing that each step brings him closer to his dream of taking to the skies as a

Royal Navy pilot.

Reflecting on his journey thus far, Yogi is quick to express his gratitude for the opportunities, training, and support that have propelled him forward. He recognizes the invaluable role that his Contingent Commander, his Section Officer and all the Royal Navy instructors have played in shaping his path, instilling in him the skills and confidence needed to prepare himself for the next chapter.

But perhaps most importantly, Yogi remains steadfast in his belief that anything is possible with hard work, dedication and a willingness to chase after one's dreams. As he sets his sights on the horizon, Cadet Yogi Ashworth stands as a shining example of the heights that can be reached when one dares to aim for the stars.

Ms Sophie Broyé
Ryde School CCF RN Section Officer

STOWE CCF CADETS SOAR HIGH AT RAF BENSON

On Thursday 16th May, seven eager Royal Air Force (RAF) cadets from the Stowe Combined Cadet Force (CCF) had a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to take to the skies at RAF Benson. The cadets participated in air experience flights in the Grob Tutor, a primary trainer aircraft used by the RAF.

The day began with comprehensive ground training, where the cadets were meticulously briefed on all safety procedures and flight preparations. With their newfound knowledge, the cadets were ready to embark on their airborne adventure.

Each cadet had the chance to fly for up to 30 minutes, taking control of the Grob Tutor and experiencing the thrill of flight first-hand. Under

the guidance of experienced RAF pilots, the cadets were even able to perform exhilarating aerobatic manoeuvres including loop-the-loops and barrel rolls.

The experience left a lasting impression on the cadets, who returned to the ground with beaming smiles and stories to share. The air experience flights not only provided an unforgettable adventure but also offered valuable insights into the world of aviation and the RAF.

The Stowe CCF cadets' day at RAF Benson was a testament to the exciting opportunities available to young people interested in aviation. The RAF's air experience program continues to inspire and motivate the next generation of pilots and aviation enthusiasts.



EXPERIENCING IT IN THE FIELD

Coming back from Easter break, all fourth form CCF cadets took on an exciting field day at Stowe. The day started out by a parade on the North front by the George statue where all cadets, staff and NCO's gathered before marching to the bourbon fields where all field exercises were taking place.

Once all kit and uniform had been checked each Platoon headed to their respective activities. Despite the rainy weather making some activities harder, each platoon showed patience and perseverance throughout the day and staff helped all activities run smoothly; having made some adjustments to adapt to the weather conditions. We started the day with practicing our gun handling skills and the safety precautions of handling an air rifle which is a vital skill to acquire if you are to be part of the CCF. This then brought us to blank firing exercise which helped us learn

communication skills as we had to cooperate with another team on the field before being able to start firing.

Later in the afternoon, we headed to tower building to conduct a team building exercise where everyone's contribution was needed to achieve a solid structure which could also withstand the length of the tower.



This exercise required logical and cohesive thinking. All Platoons also took part in two separate command tasks which all required leadership skills to lead their team in victory and achieve the challenge while still respecting all instructions. We also participated in multiple different versions of an assault course later in the afternoon and raced in pairs which added some fun competition to the activity.

We ended the day with all platoons having completed all activities they needed to do and cadets were ready to go back to house for some well-deserved rest. Thank you to Command Sergeant Major Geoffrey Abbey and all staff involved in the CCF for making this day possible and for trying their best to make the day enjoyable in spite of challenging weather conditions.

Mr Andrew Arnold
CCF Contingent Commander

EXERCISE GUARDIAN OF THUNDER

TONBRIDGE SCHOOL CCF



During the first week of the Easter holidays, thirty cadets from all three sections took the trip to Brunswick for the inaugural Guardian of Thunder Camp. We arrived on Thursday at roughly midday and headed straight out onto the training area. The exercise for Thursday afternoon focused on building up the skills of the younger cadets who are still relatively new to the Cadet Force. These skills included 'reacting to effective enemy fire', 'pairs fire and manoeuvre' and 'withdrawing from contact'. The boys were quick to pick up on new skills during this part of training, with a mixture of dry training and blank firing. During the day, appearances were made by new recruits around the training area which gave the cadets an idea of what day-to-day life is like for new recruits in the infantry. We then returned to camp and headed straight to the classroom where the cadets learnt the basics of 'section attacks', which they would put into practice on the training area the next day.

After spending the night in camp, we headed out onto the extensive training area bright and early on Friday morning to commence the next part of the exercise. We then set out to put into practice our work from the previous evening. Throughout the day we started with small, linear section attacks with one point of enemy contact. As the strength of the cadets grew in this area, the difficulty of the task at hand did so too, moving on to harder section attacks with multiple points of enemy contact, which the cadets handled brilliantly.

Saturday was a fantastic range day in which the boys were able to live fire the weapons they had been using in blank training the day before. In the morning, we made the journey to Ash ranges where we would spend the day. There were several shoots at either one hundred or two hundred metres. These included rapid firing, group shoots, five second exposures and 'fall when hit' targets. The boys enjoyed this tremendously.

Sunday was spent tackling the training area's tough assault course, with a mixture of high, low and wet obstacles. While some cadets were tackling this, others spent some time learning about camouflage and concealment. They had the challenge of spotting hidden items at different distances including a senior cadet hidden in the undergrowth!

Monday was the final, more relaxed day of camp where the cadets had the chance to take part in a rather different experience - a Virtual Reality simulator, where the boys had to work as a team to get through the tough, campaign style game. After coming back to reality, boys and staff alike said it was like nothing they had experienced, a truly exhilarating experience. Heading back to Tonbridge marked the end of an extraordinary camp which tested the cadets in a variety of ways, setting us up for what we hope will be a similarly special Field Day and Summer Camp to come.

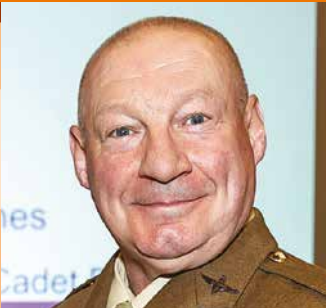
Cdt CSgt Harry Jones FH

CADET COMPANY SARGENT MAJOR DARREN BURY-COOKE - BRAKENHALE SCHOOL CCF

"More than anything, I joined the Cadets to make friends and I have achieved just that and more. I have gained in confidence, communication, time-management and leadership skills as well as a sense of belonging and camaraderie amongst my peers. I now have a more positive outlook on life and it is the sole reason I am the person I am today. I most enjoy the field exercises and the physical and mental challenges they present."

CAPTAIN PHILLIP MARTIN CCF - EASTBOURNE COLLEGE CCF

"As the School Librarian, I joined our CCF as I wanted to offer something 'beyond the classroom' and my own personal experiences as a Cadet made it an obvious activity to take on. I now run our year-long recruits' training programme and oversee the Cadet NCOs and adult staff who deliver our training. It has enhanced my own confidence, job satisfaction and enabled good working relationships with the pupils and staff at my school. Seeing enthusiastic cadets develop into capable NCOs is what I enjoy the most."

CAPTAIN JOHN HUGHES - CHRIST'S HOSPITAL CCF

"I am the Contingent Commander of the CCF and the school marshal. After 35 years of Regular and Reserve service, I wanted to give to young people opportunities outside of the classroom that they might never have seen, done or even thought about. It's great seeing the cadets thrive through every challenge and watch them grow into well rounded young adults."

CAPTAIN PAUL TESTER - TUNBRIDGE WELLS GIRLS' GRAMMAR SCHOOL CCF

"I really enjoy the camaraderie of my fellow CFAVs, the respect of the cadets and watching first hand their development and growth through their time, whilst knowing that along the way, I have facilitated situations that have helped cadets to reach their full potential. Also observing the passion, pride and determination of the cadets when they're competing against each other."

What is a CADET FORCE ADULT VOLUNTEER?

SIMPLY PUT, A CADET FORCE ADULT VOLUNTEER (CAV) IS SOMEONE WHO HELPS INSTRUCT AND ADVISE SEA, ARMY OR AIR CADETS AT THEIR WEEKLY TRAINING SESSIONS, SOME WEEKEND ACTIVITIES AND AN ANNUAL CAMP IN THE SUMMER.

Interested? See direct links below to further information.



**Combined
Cadet Force**

If you wish to know about the Combined Cadet Force schools in Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, East Sussex, Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Oxfordshire, Kent, Surrey or West Sussex, please contact se-sceo@rfca.mod.uk.
Visit: adultvolunteer.org



**ARMY
CADETS**

Search for your County online or visit adultvolunteer.org

Kent ACF armycadets.com/county/kent-acf/

Surrey ACF armycadets.com/county/surrey-acf/

Sussex ACF armycadets.com/county/sussex-acf/

Berkshire ACF armycadets.com/county/royal-county-of-berkshire-acf/

Hampshire and Isle of Wight ACF

armycadets.com/county/hampshire-and-isle-of-wight-acf/

Oxfordshire ACF armycadets.com/county/oxfordshire-acf/

Buckinghamshire ACF armycadets.com/county/buckinghamshire-acf/

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

Be a Volunteer. Join as an adult volunteer - RAF Air Cadets (mod.uk).

Search online: RAF Air Cadets volunteer or visit adultvolunteer.org

**SEA
CADETS**

Be a Volunteer. Available Volunteer Roles - Sea Cadets.

Search online: Sea Cadets volunteer or visit adultvolunteer.org



**VOLUNTEER
CADET CORPS**
ROYAL NAVAL & ROYAL MARINES CADETS

Be a Volunteer. Join as an Adult Volunteer - Volunteer Cadet Corps.

Search online: VCC Join as staff or visit adultvolunteer.org



VOLUNTEER CADETS CORPS REFLECT ON THE LAST SIX MONTHS OF SUCCESS

2024 has been a busy year for the Volunteer Cadet Corps (VCC), aside from welcoming a new Commander to the VCC, Cadets and Adult Volunteers have been involved in an array of activities. A few highlights from the last six months:

WELCOME TO OUR NEW FIRST SEA LORD CADETS

We kicked off the year welcoming a new wave of First Sea Lord Cadets. And what better way to receive your investiture than being on board HMS Victory. An amazing achievement for Cadet Warrant Officer Class 1 (RSM) Harvey from Portsmouth Royal Marines VCC and Cadet Sergeant Phoebe from Band of RMVCC Gosport who were rewarded for their dedication and remarkable accomplishment earning them this well-deserved recognition.



LIVING LIFE IN THE FLEET AIR ARM

Cadets enjoyed an action-packed weekend learning about Naval Aviation Proficiency. The weekend was an immersive experience for cadets to learn about the Fleet Air Arm which took place at Royal Naval Air Station (RNAS) Yeovilton.





CADETS PUT THEIR EQUESTRIAN SKILLS TO THE TEST

The Volunteer Cadet Corps boasts a truly remarkable and rich history, with its roots tracing back to notable events like the horseback inspections of 1960. Fast forward to today, where three novice equestrians had the privilege of visiting the esteemed Honourable Artillery Company for a day of immersive military equestrian training.

During their time there, cadets delved deep into the intricacies of military saddlery equipment, some of which have historical significance dating back to World War I. As they warmed up, they transitioned into refining their military horsemanship skills.

This engagement provided an incredible educational opportunity, combining both historical context with practical skills. Thank you to the Light Cavalry for their hospitality in hosting us and for imparting invaluable knowledge.

ENGLAND MEETS SCOTLAND

Cadets from across the South region enjoyed a visit to HMS Caledonia in Rosyth, to connect with their counterparts from Arbroath RMVCC on a cultural weeklong exchange programme. Cadets were able to explore Edinburgh's rich cultural heritage from experiencing Edinburgh Castle to marvelling at Holyrood Palace and the Royal Yacht Britannia. The week was an

opportunity for cadets to understand each other's history and enjoy the rich camaraderie of the forces.

CLIMBING OUR WAY TO SUCCESS

Over the last six months an incredible 46 cadets and 11 staff have completed their VCC Introduction

to Top Rope Climbing course since its introduction in December 2023! The VCC continues to invest in climbing as its important part of learning for our cadets and staff as well as having a bit of fun at the same time.

BERETS AT THE READY FOR VCC CADETS

The Recruit Company 'RCoy232' from Portsmouth Division RMVCC were rewarded with their cadet Berets after the successful completion of their Basic VCC Training. Cadets go through 4 months of training which includes drill, fieldcraft, navigation, team building and leadership culminating with a passing out parade.

THE BIG TOMMY SLEEP OUT

Cadets switched the comfort of their beds to help raise funds of the Big Tommy Sleep Out raising crucial funds for the most vulnerable veterans. Recognising an incredible



accomplishment by one of our Cadets, the Commanding Officer of HMS Excellent had the pleasure of presenting a certificate to honour a remarkable RNVCC Cadet who raised over £600 for the charity. A truly inspiring dedication to making a difference! In total, the VCC raised over £4,500 for the Tommy Sleep Out. Roll on 2025!

VOLUNTEER VCC ENJOY SUCCESSFUL RETURN OF CTC CAUTLEY CUP

After a five-year hiatus, the Cautley Cup competition triumphantly returned to the Commando Training Centre in Lymington. The weekend event rigorously tested the cadets' military and field capabilities, pushing them to their limits in a fierce two-day competition.

The weekend consists of a series of challenging exercises. These included fieldcraft skills such as camouflage and concealment, stalking, fire control orders, and map reading. Physical training elements, including a log carry, land rover pull, and the infamous sheep dip, tested the cadets' strength, stamina, and teamwork.

The events is a reminder of instilling values of courage, competence, and camaraderie among the cadets. Since its inception, the Cautley Cup has been a proving ground for cadets to demonstrate their skills and teamwork in a demanding environment.



SOUTHERN AREA SEA CADETS

Spring Update 2024

AS EVER, CADETS AND VOLUNTEERS IN SOUTHERN AREA SEA CADET CORPS (SCC) UNITS HAVE BEEN BUSY DURING THE PRECEDING MONTHS.

On the competition front, the Area Drill & Piping Competition was held at HMS Excellent on a very sunny day in March. Wessex District, which includes three units in SERFCA Territory, swept the board winning all the drill and piping classes. They then went on to represent Southern Area at the National Competition held at HMS Raleigh in April, again doing well, with Southampton Piping Party winning Bronze Medals and one of their team winning Silver as the second-best piper in UK SCC. The Colour Party, which included Cadets from Warsash, won Gold and Leading Cadet Imogen Thompson formed part



Zulu Company Gib' Cup Winners

of the National Winning Guard. The Continuity Team from Southampton were placed third overall.

Also, at the competition, former Southampton Cadet Miss Sara Yasin (pictured) was presented with her Kings Coronation Medal as she took part in the Kings Coronation Parade in London. Also pictured is her brother Able Cadet Zaki Yasin

who won Bronze in the Piping Competition.

The whole event was made very special as the Trophies were presented by the Admiral of the Sea Cadets HRH The Princess Royal - Princess Anne.

Also, in competitions, Southern Area Royal Marines Cadet won the coveted Gibraltar Cup after a hard-fought competition at

Commando Training Centre Royal Marines. Although the team were from Jersey, they were representing Southern Area's Zulu Company Royal Marine Cadets. Supporting the team were Commander (SCC) Gary Bassett and Commander (SCC) Karen Kristiansen along with Major (SCC) Phil Wood RMR (Royal Marine Reserves) pictured with the team after completing the 'Sheep Dip' which is part of the Arduous Training Course on Woodbury Common.

Other activities, too numerous to mention, have taken place including a very successful Multi Activity Staff Training Course held at Longmoor Camp in May.

Lieutenant Commander (SCC) Ray Mitchell RNR,
Area Staff Officer



Sara Yasmin with Admiral Sir Philip Jones CCB DL



Able Cadet Zaki Yasin



RETIREMENT OF SEA CADET CORPS (SCC) SOUTHERN AREA OFFICER – COMMANDER TREVOR PRICE ROYAL NAVY

At the beginning of May, we said a fond farewell to our Area Officer who has served the Area exceptionally well for the last eight years. Since taking over the role in 2016, Trevor has visited all Southern Area Units, presented hundreds of Medals and Certificates as well as promoting hundreds of Cadets and Cadet Force Adult Volunteers (CFAV). The number of hands he has had to shake in those eight years are countless. During his last week he wrote the following:

"It has been a huge privilege and honour to have been your Area Officer for the last 8 years. I feel my previous Royal Naval experiences working in Operations, Training, Ministry of Defence and Defence Intelligence as well as being a maths teacher in a Secondary School for 3 years was a valuable and appropriate background to support and

represent you as the Area Officer.

The Sea Cadet Corps is a fabulous organisation and having chatted to literally thousands of cadets and adults during my time, the overwhelming reason they enjoy cadets is the links to the Royal Navy, drill and especially the uniform, all things boating including competitions and offshore and the opportunity to be with 'their mates'. I have thoroughly enjoyed



this role and take with me many friendships and extremely happy memories of unit visits, camps, competitions and Royal Naval Parades. After a total of 37 years in uniform, it is appropriate I hand over to a new Area Officer. I am sure you will welcome him/her as you did me all those years ago".

The role has been advertised as an Full Time Reserve Service (FTRS) appointment for suitably qualified officers to apply. In the interim, we welcome Commander (SCC) Gary Bassett Royal Navy Reserve (RNR) as temporary Administration Officer (AO) for Southern until the process for a new AO is complete. Gary currently works full time for our parent charity the Marine Society & Sea Cadets as Deputy Director of Operations.

Lt Cdr (SCC) Ray Mitchell RNR,
Public Relations Officer

LEADING CADET WILLIAM COOPER - TS WHADDON, MILTON KEYNES SCC

"I heard about the activities and opportunities available in the Cadets through members of my family and wanted to try it for myself. I am now a Leading Cadet which entails being a role model to the younger and less experienced Cadets; teaching subject such as drill, rowing and meteorology. I enjoy all aspects of being a Cadet but highlights include taking part in competitions, courses, parade nights, making friends and much more. I also enjoy spending time away at the Camps and sailing on the Sea Cadet Flagship TS Royalist."

SERJEANT (SCC) ANDREW GOOCH - HASTINGS SCC

"My son and I joined and decided to remain for years after; having seen the positive impact it has on all involved – cadets AND adults. I have gained further skills to assist in my civilian job where I am a self-employed outdoor instructor delivering navigation training, guided treks and Duke of Edinburgh Award expeditions to name a few. The best thing about cadets is seeing young people make successful life choices and careers."

LEADING CADET DAISY ASHLEY - WINDSOR AND ETON SCC

"Throughout my four years as a Cadet I have developed from a complete beginner at rowing to a fully-fledged coxswain and soon to be Cadet instructor. I must also mention the wonderful social opportunities being in the Cadets has given me, developing my confidence and allowing me to expand my social circle. I have also represented my unit and district at a number of competitions and gained nationally recognised qualifications in shore and water based activities. Attending my promotion boards also taught me valuable skills for my working life."

LIEUTENANT COMMANDER (SCC) RICHARD THACKERY - GRAVESEND SCC

"Whilst serving in the Royal Naval Auxiliary Service (RNXS) I met a group of officers who were talking about what the Sea Cadet Corps got up to. When the RNXS disbanded, I immediately joined the SCC to help give young people training experiences and help them develop. In the past I have organised the Cadet input into events such as the Queen's Golden and Platinum Jubilee as well as major training for both the Cadets and Adult Volunteers. The unit I have now commanded for 15 years is one that has a special ability to help young people with learning difficulties and I have great satisfaction watching their development."

ARMY CADETS CHARITABLE TRUST UK 2023

Excellence Awards

The annual ACCT UK Excellence Awards were presented by our Guest of Honour, Jordan Wylie MBE, National Army Cadet Ambassador, on June 14th at Carpenters' Hall. It was a heart-warming and celebratory event, recognising the outstanding achievements of Army Cadet Force (ACF) cadets and adult volunteers in 2023. It was a privilege to have special guest, Warrant Officer Class 2 Johnson Beharry VC, present the King's Birthday Parade tickets. We are immensely proud of them and extend our gratitude to our donors, BAE Systems, Horiba-Mira and Ammo & Co for their support.

We also take pride in the ACF, as these awards highlight the crucial role the ACF plays in fostering the development of young people across the UK. ACCT UK established these awards to honour the accomplishments of cadets and adult volunteers in the core non-military aspects of the ACF's training syllabus, which contribute to the broader cadet experience. By sharing these inspiring stories, we aim to



encourage the ACF community to continue their excellent work and demonstrate to society that the ACF is a remarkable organisation driving positive change.

The awards recognise achievements in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, First Aid, Music, Sport and Community Service. These activities help develop essential skills and qualities such as self-confidence, self-discipline, teamwork and resilience and they also enhance the training syllabus by providing

cadets with nationally recognised qualifications.

HUGE congratulations to the South East winner, Cadet Band Sergeant Major Mia Lambert from The Royal County of Berkshire ACF Bands & Corps of Drums!

The Commandant, Colonel Anthony Shallow, says: "I am delighted to see Mia being recognised for her dedication and hard work. Mia is an exemplary cadet who has set the standard for other cadets across the County. During her time in the ACF she seized every opportunity. A talented musician, Mia was instrumental in the Berkshire ACFs support to the Windsor Castle pantomime last year. I am delighted that Mia is being recognised by ACCT UK as she is the most worthy recipient of this prestigious award."



**Army
Cadet
Charitable
Trust UK**

The Army Cadet Charitable Trust UK's
Excellence Award
is presented to

Cadet Band Sergeant Major Mia Lambert
Royal County of Berkshire Army Cadet Force

For Excellence in Bands & Corps of Drums

Andrew Graham

Lieutenant General Sir Andrew Graham Bt CB CBE
President

March 2024

LIKE FATHER LIKE SON

I WRITE THIS POST AS AN ARMY CADET FORCE (ACF) INSTRUCTOR AND AS A PROUD FATHER OF BOXLEY'S VERY OWN, SERGEANT MAJOR DANNY WHEELER WHO HAS BEEN PROMOTED TO D COMPANY'S CADET COMPANY SERGEANT MAJOR (CSM).

Danny is now the senior cadet for over 140+ cadets of D Company. He joined cadets at Boxley Road in January 2019 as a very shy, reserved young boy. During his time, he has learned to push himself and achieve things he never knew was possible. He has excelled in his training and blossomed into an inspirational leader, using his own experiences from personal challenges and his training to inspire others.

Danny is a highly respected member of not just Boxley Road and D Company but also throughout the County. He has represented County on several occasions and has always carried out his duties to the highest level and always made Boxley Road very proud. He epitomises the army cadet values and is dedicated in supporting other cadets to achieve the best they can be.

As his parent and his instructor, who has witnessed his journey first hand, I saw a shy young boy join cadets and now I see a confident young man standing tall. I am forever grateful to the ACF for all the wonderful opportunities they have provided him and feel he is in the best possible position to start adulthood.



Danny said: "When I joined cadets, I always wanted to reach the rank of Sergeant before I finished and being made Company Sgt Major was beyond my wildest dreams and now I feel I can leave the cadets feeling proud of myself."

To all the cadets in this wonderful organisation, I hope you find inspiration in Danny's journey and realise, whatever your personality or life's challenges, anything is possible and you have the ability to achieve greatness."

By Staff Instructor (SI) Ben Wheeler.



AS HIS PARENT AND HIS INSTRUCTOR, WHO HAS WITNESSED HIS JOURNEY FIRST HAND, I SAW A SHY YOUNG BOY JOIN CADETS AND NOW I SEE A CONFIDENT YOUNG MAN STANDING TALL



NORMANDY BATTLE CAMP AT THE URBAN TRAINING CENTRE

In June, close to the 80th anniversary of the D-Day landings in Normandy, it was perhaps rather poignant that the Normandy Company who are part of Hampshire and Isle of Wight Army Cadet Force (ACF) held their annual Battle Camp Weekend.

This year's weekend was entitled "Exercise Steadfast" and held at the Urban Training Centre (UTC) at Longmoor and was a unique experience for many of the Cadets.

The weekend saw the One Star Cadets Cadre align with the Two Star Cadets Cadre in taking on a hardened "enemy" in the Three Star Cadets Cadre over a variety of missions and different scenarios both day and night. After initial "enemy" successes, the final battle saw the "friendly forces" triumphant and closed off the weekend in great style!

Lieutenant (Lt) Carl Munns, the Training Officer had this to say, "I've been wholly impressed by the Cadet Force Adult Volunteers (CFAV) and Cadets on this weekend's exercise. Everyone has given

maximum effort and participated fully which has left the exercise being both fun and an effective step in the development of the cadets at all-star levels as we head to annual camp in a couple of months".

It was also the final Company Weekend for the outgoing Company Commander, Major Paul Farmer, who leaves the Army Cadet Force after several decades of exemplary service.

The Company 2nd in Command (2IC), Captain Chris Hargrave was full of praise for the outgoing Officer Commanding (OC); and said "Major

Farmer has been a huge asset to the company and has built the company back up to its best over the last few years, he will be sorely missed by CFAVs and cadets alike and we look forward to continuing the good work and building on the foundations he has left behind".

Normandy Company, like the rest of Hampshire and Isle of Wight ACF are now gearing up to their annual camp which this summer takes place in Scotland!

Lt Stuart Brown
County Media Officer



HEAR FROM SOME OF THE CADET FORCE ADULT VOLUNTEERS FROM THE ROYAL COUNTY OF BERKSHIRE ARMY CADET FORCE



ARMY CADETS

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



CAPTAIN CHAD FITZGIBBON

AREA TRAINING OFFICER

"I joined the ACF to help shape future leaders, develop my leadership skills, build friendships, and engage with our local communities."

I joined the ACF in 2011 as a Potential Instructor and progressed to the rank of Staff Sergeant Instructor. I have had the opportunity to run a Unit as a Detachment Commander in Maidenhead before commissioning and becoming an Officer. The ACF has afforded me the opportunity to learn new skills through its comprehensive training packages from leadership to more practical courses such as Archery Instructors, Skill at Arms, Range Qualifications, etc. If you are looking for a challenge and adventure, look no further and join today.

UNLOCK YOUR POTENTIAL, SERVE YOUR COMMUNITY

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



COLONEL ANTHONY SHALLOW

COUNTY COMMANDANT

"The ACF has been instrumental in shaping my life and catapulting my professional career"

I joined the Army Cadet Force in 2002 as a cadet and I went on to become a Cadet Force Adult Volunteer. Since being in the ACF I have had the chance to gain valuable life skills, make life long friends and even receive my Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award. I now have the wonderful responsibility of leading The Royal County of Berkshire Army Cadet Force"

UNLOCK YOUR POTENTIAL, SERVE YOUR COMMUNITY

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



CAPTAIN SAMANTHA MCENDOO

MEDICAL SUPPORT OFFICER

"As a CFAV there are many opportunities for self-development such as, first aid, adventurous training, leadership & teaching qualifications."

I have been part of the ACF since 2007, starting my experience as a cadet then transitioning to a cadet force adult volunteer. I progressed to running my own local detachment as Detachment Commander, a post which I held for 7 years. A passion of mine has always been first aid and through the ACF I have been able to gain recognised first aid and teaching qualifications. Going out to Norway training has been one of the best highlights"

UNLOCK YOUR POTENTIAL, SERVE YOUR COMMUNITY

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



STAFF SERGEANT INSTRUCTOR HOLLY TUCKER

DETACHMENT COMMANDER

Being a volunteer instructor in Berkshire ACF is such a rewarding hobby because I am able to train and shape cadets into amazing young adults.

I joined cadets as a CFAV in late 2019. I had previously been a cadet since 2015 and aged out as a 4* passed Cadet Sergeant. I joined back as a CFAV as I wanted to give back the knowledge and skills I had learnt as a cadet. And am now Detachment Commander of 9 Platoon Caversham. Watching them progress from a young basic cadet to a confident, accomplished senior is a wonderful feeling that makes me proud to be part of such an amazing organisation.

CADETS FROM 18 TROOP WINDSOR COMMEMORATE D-DAY WITH MOUNTBATTEN GRANGE CARE HOME RESIDENTS

On Thursday June 6th, cadets from 18 Troop Windsor showed their support for Mountbatten Grange care home's special commemorative ceremony to mark 80 years since the D-Day landings.

The Mountbatten Grange care home hosted an outdoor celebration and lamp-lighting ceremony for its residents and

their loved ones. Cadets spoke to the residents and spent the day supporting the care home with their special celebrations.

The commemorations were particularly poignant for residents who had personal connections to D-Day and the second world war. For many residents, it was an opportunity to reflect on their

memories of the historic event. The cadets represented the local community's support and unity in commemorating the brave soldiers who fought for freedom.

The event was a testament to the Mountbatten Grange care home's dedication to providing its residents with meaningful and memorable experiences and it is heart-warming to see how the cadets teamed up with the care home to honour the brave soldiers and give support to the elderly.

The event demonstrated how the community can work together to make a difference and how important it is to remember and honour those who have served for their country, not just on D-Day but every day.

Col Anthony Shallow Commandant



SURREY SCOUTS SIGN ARMED FORCES COVENANT

SURREY SCOUTS HAVE BECOME THE FIRST SCOUT COUNTY IN THE UK TO SIGN THE ARMED FORCES COVENANT!

Representing a commitment, on behalf of the 18,000 members of Scouting in Surrey, the Armed Forces Covenant was signed by Joe Rogerson (County Commissioner) and Colonel Tim Petransky, in the presence of His Majesty's Lord Lieutenant of Surrey, Mr Michael More-Molyneux.

The Armed Forces Covenant is a promise that Surrey Scouts acknowledge and understand that those who serve or have served in the Armed Forces and their families, should be treated with fairness and respect in the communities, economy and the society they serve with their lives. Surrey Scouts enables young people from the Armed Forces Community to join

Scouting, supports military families, service members and veterans.

The county of Surrey still sees a large amount of armed forces reside and work across Surrey and a number are currently involved as volunteers in Scouting.

Joe Rogerson (County Commissioner) said: "Surrey Scouts is committed to honouring the Armed Forces Covenant and supporting the Armed Forces Community. We recognise the value that Serving Personnel, both Regular and Reservists, Veterans and military families contribute to our country and to Scouting".

Our Chief Executive, Colonel Patrick Crowley MBE DL, said "We are delighted that Surrey Scouts

has signed the Covenant and with the commitments Surrey Scouts has made to young people, military families and all members of the Armed Forces Community".



HAMPSHIRE & IOW WING RAF AIR CADETS ARE FLYING HIGH!

HAMPSHIRE & IOW WING RAF AIR CADETS WELCOMED SPECIAL GUESTS ON SUNDAY 12TH MAY FOR THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE SOUTHERN AEROSPACE CENTRE - A HIGH TECH FACILITY OFFERING VIRTUAL REALITY AVIATION TRAINING TO RAF AIR CADETS ACROSS THE SOUTH OF ENGLAND, HOUSED AT 424 (SOUTHAMPTON) SQUADRON.

The facility was made possible following a successful funding bid to The Connaught Trust which resulted in £100,000 being awarded to the Wing. Additional funding from the South East Reserve Forces' and Cadets' Association (SERFCA) financed the supporting infrastructure and together enabled the installation of two Aerospace Centres within the Wing: the Southern Centre in Southampton and the Northern Centre in Aldershot.

Air Commodore Simon Harper OBE MA Chartered FCIPD RAF was invited to officially open the high-tech virtual reality Southern Aerospace Centre, which was named The Brooks Suite in tribute to David Brooks, a Civilian Instructor with 424 (Southampton) Squadron who sadly passed away before the project completion.

Air Commodore Simon Harper said, "Hampshire and the Isle of Wight has a remarkable aviation history and heritage. This legacy provides the ideal backdrop for the RAF Air Cadets' Southern Aerospace Centre that will inspire and enthuse the next generation of aerospace specialists and pioneers. I am extremely grateful for the support of The Connaught Trust and the South East Reserve Forces' and Cadets' Association who have turned the vision, energy and passion of the RAF Air Cadets into such an important and unique facility."

The equipment has enhanced the training experience of hundreds of RAF Air Cadets as many of the skills honed through VR experiences are directly applicable to real-world scenarios in both civilian industries and military operations. These skills include strategic thinking, effective communication, teamwork, and leadership under pressure. Thanks to the equipment, the Wing has achieved a 100% success rate for first solo



in flying and gliding scholarships.

One cadet explained, "With the new simulators, it is a more immersive experience and better preparation for flying. When you get into a plane, you realise that the simulator was very realistic!"

The opening event welcomed over 20 VIP guests including the Lord Mayor of Southampton, Councillor Valerie Laurent; Vice Lord-Lieutenant of Hampshire and Chair of The Connaught Trust, Colonel Charles Ackroyd and SERFCA County Chairman and Trustee of The Connaught Trust, Commander Anthony Stickland. Guests were given the opportunity to participate in a range of activities and demonstrations. Cadets showed off their flying skills and guests were able to have a go at flying a range of virtual aircraft, including Red Arrows jets. Other demonstrations included a STEM workshop, e-Sports and Rocketry display.

The Connaught Trust is a UK registered charity, with a Board comprising individuals who have proud association with Reservist organisations and has funds available to promote military efficiency within the Cadet and Reserve forces in the South of England. The trust gives grants to units based mainly in Hampshire and The Isle of Wight, but also to beneficiaries located in the adjoining counties of Berkshire, Dorset, Surrey, West Sussex and Wiltshire. For more information visit the website at www.connaught-trust.co.uk



The Connaught Trust
Funding Reserves and Cadets

SUSSEX WING ROYAL AIR FORCE AIR CADETS (RAFAC) ANNUAL FIELD DAY AND PARADE

Sunday 7 July saw some 250 cadets and staff from across Sussex Wing gather for a day of competition and activities, followed by a formal parade and review of the Wing conducted by Group Captain (Gp Cpt) Anne-Marie Houghton OBE RAF.

With every Sussex Wing Squadron represented, the day was a fantastic opportunity for cadets to meet like-minded peers from across Sussex, engaging in team building activities and competitions and building new friendships.

Cadets were able to experience the breadth of what RAFAC has to offer with activities including; archery, banner and continuity drill competitions, field gun run and 172 (Haywards Heath) Squadron's bulldog aircraft and Virtual Reality (VR) flight simulators. Particular interest was shown in the VR simulators and the inter-squadron field gun competition.

On the competitive front, 172 squadron was successful in securing the top position in the banner drill competition and they, along with XIX (Crawley) Squadron who placed second, will go on to represent the Wing at the London & South East Region competitions later this year. A huge congratulations to them both.

1343 (East Grinstead) Squadron bagged first prize in the continuity competition for the second year running, so a massive congratulations to them and 2464 (Storrington) Squadron secured first place in the hotly contested field gun run.

The day culminated in a formal review and march past performed by the Wing. Gp Capt Houghton OBE RAF, Reviewing Officer for the parade, delivered a poignant and inspirational speech to the cadets,



encouraging them to continue to take every opportunity that the RAFAC gives them; noting that both the RAF and civilian employers hugely value the skills and character that cadets gain through membership of the organisation.

Addressing parents and guests, Gp Capt Houghton thanked them for their continued steadfast and unwavering support for their cadets and squadrons. "The RAF places huge importance on families. We know that behind every cadet, aviator and officer is a huge network of family and friends without whom those individuals could not do what they do, so for that I thank you"

There were also several presentations made by the Gp Cpt to individuals on parade. A huge congratulations to Chief Warrant Officer (CWO) Onions of 1015 (Horsham) Squadron, who has been appointed the Lord Lieutenant's Cadet for West Sussex.

And to Flight Lieutenant (Flt Lt) Bryder, Officer Commanding (OC) of 225 (Brighton) No.1 Squadron, who received his 4th bar and rosette for the Cadet Forces Medal, a remarkable achievement recognising 40 years of dedicated service.

We also bid a fond farewell to a long serving Cadet Forces Adult

Volunteer (CFAV), Flight Sergeant Mark Chambers of 172 Squadron, is sadly leaving Sussex Wing as he is relocating to Scotland. Fortunately for the organisation, FS Chambers will be joining a new squadron once he is settled and will continue to pass on his wealth of knowledge and experience.

OC Sussex Wing, Wing Commander Helene Gould, said of the event, "Our annual field day and formal parade, gives cadets a chance to try lots of new activities, such as archery, field gun run, banner and continuity drill and some indoor rock climbing but most of all they have the chance to meet up with old friends from across the Wing and for many to make new friends.

The emphasis is on having a fun and at the conclusion, to put on their best uniforms and take part in a formal parade in front of parents and supporters. This year, despite the showers everyone had a great day and looked incredibly smart for the parade.

I was incredibly proud and honoured to lead these highly motivated and talented young people from across Sussex."

Sergeant George Morris RAFAC
Media Communications Officer

CADET FLIGHT SERGEANT HOLLY CORNISH - 135 (KIDLINGTON) SQUADRON, THAMES VALLEY WING ATC

"I joined Cadets after I saw my Officer Commanding give a presentation at my school. I was nervous at first, but ever since my first parade night I've never looked back and have enjoyed every moment since. It has given me some amazing opportunities, my favourite being the Air Cadet Pilot Scholarship where I spent two weeks in Dundee and completed my first solo flight. I was also able to attend the King's Coronation due to being nominated for the Dacre Sword. The skills and friendships I've gained through Cadets have had a pivotal impact on my life and I am the best version of myself because of them."

CADET FLIGHT SERGEANT DANIEL WALTERS 129 (TUNBRIDGE WELLS) SQUADRON, KENT WING RAFAC

"As a Flight Sergeant in the Cadets, my current role is to teach lectures on aviation and engineering to the more senior Cadets, maintain uniform standards through inspections and offer guidance to the younger cadets. I also help to run the Squadron band and ensemble. From this, I have gained leadership and communication skills, the ability to work under pressure, knowledge of aviation as well as met some of my best friends! I thoroughly enjoy taking part in the array of musical activities available to us, such as playing the trumpet in national bands, the last post at remembrance ceremonies and developing the musical skills of other cadets"

MRS JENNY OAKLEY - 1927 (PETERSFIELD) SQUADRON, HAMPSHIRE & ISLE OF WIGHT WING ATC

"I joined the civilian committee at the Squadron when my two sons were Cadets. They are now in their 40s but I stayed on! I have gained many friends over the years and the knowledge that I have been able to give back to the organisation that helped my sons become the wonderful people they are now. I previously worked in banking and finance and am now retired, so in my role as the treasurer of 1927 (Petersfield), 2260 (Waterlooville) and 1024 (Isle of Wight) Squadrons it has been a great way of keeping my brain active!"

FLIGHT LIEUTENANT CRAIG THOMSON RAFAC - 54 (EASTBOURNE) SQUADRON, SUSSEX WING ATC

"I originally joined 55 (Woodford & Bramhall) Squadron in 2007 as a Civilian Instructor and am now the Officer Commanding of 54 (Eastbourne) Squadron. I have thoroughly enjoyed seeing young people flourish as Cadets and go on to start successful careers in both the Armed Forces and in civilian roles. I myself also enjoy the camaraderie amongst the Adult Volunteers and have gained lots of skills in leadership and management which has been useful to bring back to my civilian career as a trade development manager."



THE ULYSSES TRUST

Challenge – Opportunity – Development



READY FOR AN ADVENTURE?

The Ulysses Trust provides support and funding to encourage challenging and adventurous activities by members of the Volunteer Reserve and Cadet Forces. We welcome applications from units across the UK and we are keen to give grants to cadet units.

We support a wide range of activities in the UK and abroad including trekking, exploring, mountaineering, canoeing, sailing and diving.

Find out more at ulysses-trust.co.uk



@UlyssesTrust



THE ULYSSES TRUST

ULLSWATER APRIL 2024



During the first week of April, twenty-five cadets and two Cadet Force Adult Volunteers from two squadrons, 1105 (City of Winchester) Squadron and 1101 (Kettering & District) Squadron, completed a five day camp with the Outward Bound Trust. As part of the camp, they undertook adventure training and outward bound activities exposing cadets to new experiences, skills, and friends. Preparations had begun in September 2023, with fundraising and metaphorical recruitment campaigns to get cadets to sign up. By the time April came, the excitement was palpable, and everyone was ready for a five day adventure.



ULLSWATER WAS ONE OF THE MOST MEMORABLE WEEKS I'VE EVER HAD. I DID THINGS I NEVER THOUGHT I WOULD EVER DO, INCLUDING GETTING OVER MY FEAR OF WATER.

CADET (CDT) C. DAY



The Summit of Sheffield Pike

However, before we get to the discussion, attention must turn to the learning objectives. Through discussions with the Combined Cadet Forces Adult Volunteers (CFAVs), the objectives were decided to be:

- Encourage the development of leadership skills and techniques
- Develop verbal and non-verbal communication abilities
- Foster and improve the ability to operate within a team.

These outcomes were decided as they would be beneficial to the cadets both in Royal Air Force Air Cadets (RAFAC) and within their wider lives. The entire week was structured around teaching and achieving these outcomes.

The camp began with an early bus ride on a Monday morning from Winchester to the Outward Bound Centre via Swindon. This would be

the first time that the two groups of cadets met. By lunchtime, we'd reached the centre and launched into a week of activities and learning. After the obligatory icebreakers, the first activity was cliff

jumping, the cadets scrambled up the side of a nearby cliff before launching themselves into the eponymous Ullswater. Then there was a chance to demonstrate the best impression of a 'Silly Salmon,' whilst also jumping into the water, before it was back to the centre to warm up. That evening the camp split into two, one group doing an orienteering challenge, racing round the outward bound centre: whilst the others continued with icebreaking and team building challenges.



Cliff Jumping

Day two saw the groups commence on the first part of a two day expedition. Once again the groups were split in two and were separated for just over twenty four hours. One group started their expedition by gliding across Ullswater in a rowboat, before hiking part way up Sheffield Pike and Glenridding Dodd, at which point they established a base camp before summiting Sheffield Pike. After spending the night on the edge of the Pike, the group descended into Glenridding before getting a steamer to Howtown. From Howtown it was then a swift canoe back to the centre, whilst shrouded in mist and clouds to complete the expedition.

One of the expedition groups



IT WAS REFRESHING TO SEE THE CADETS NOT ONLY COME OUT OF THEIR METAPHORICAL SHELLS BUT TO FEEL COMFORTABLE ENOUGH TO SHARE THEIR WEAKNESS AND BE REFLECTIVE ABOUT THE CAMP AND WHAT IT'S DONE TO THEM.

G. BEDFORD, CIVILIAN INSTRUCTOR

The final day saw the groups delve into the tunnels, competing in games and challenges, that ended in a game of sardines accompanied by a joke competition. The hours spent in the tunnels brought the camp to an end, although there was just enough time for certificates, paper plates and gifts. With a final goodbye to Ullswater, the campers boarded a bus and headed for home. At Swindon, hugs were shared and tears were shed, as the two squadrons separated - while they had begun as strangers, they had parted as friends.



HAVE I REALLY WALKED ALL THE WAY UP THAT AND BACK? I'M QUITE SURPRISED, NEVER THOUGHT I'D EVER MANAGE SOMETHING LIKE THAT.

CORPORAL (CPL), L. NASH

The other group, began their expedition by canoeing across Ullswater to Glenridding, before hiking into the foothills of Helvellyn. The group then stored their bags in a converted shepherd's hut before undertaking an evening hike around the nearby tarn whilst stargazing. The group then spent the night at the hut before returning to Glenridding. From Glenridding they then caught a boat to the Aria Force Waterfalls and finished off their expedition with a hike around it before returning to the Centre. Throughout the expeditions, the cadets were rotated through various leaderships of positions including, navigator, head chef, boat captain and morale officer. The evening after the expedition, there was a moment for introspectiveness and reflectiveness as the campers gathered for a campfire; sharing what they'd learnt and experienced.

Day four saw the campers undertake gorge scrambling in the vicinity of Patterdale. Operating as two teams the groups waded, climbed, scrambled and helped each other up the gorge. Whilst the Instructors began the activity by telling cadets exactly what to do, by the end of the activity, the Instructors were merely supervising as the cadets led the way. One group was so successful that they reached the highest point on the gorge! It was one of the best activities of the week, that saw the cadets fulfill all of the learning objectives and make memories for life. That evening the cadets, once again split into two groups. One group did orienteering and the other did the command task, Jigsaw, which had the cadets doing various supplemental tasks in order to complete a jigsaw.



Gorge Scrambling



THE COUNTRYSIDE AND OUTDOORS. I NEVER THOUGHT IT WOULD BE MORE FUN THAN MY VIDEO GAMES.

CPL Z. RYDER

One of the groups at Aria Force



All in all, Ullswater 2024 was a great success, something only achieved through the support and generosity of the Ulysses Trust. Twenty five cadets, were given the opportunity to undertake a selection of activities not readily and regularly available to them. Each and every cadet was pushed out of their comfort zone, developed communication, leadership and team working skills whilst also learning about themselves. All three learning objectives were achieved and with these ideas and practices now being reciprocated in the squadrons. It is hard to quantify but to sum it up every cadet came back from Ullswater more confident, resilient and adventurous. Ullswater had a meaningful impact on the cadets, whilst also allowing them to create memories for life.

UP FOR A NEW CHALLENGE?



Become a Cadet Force Adult Volunteer with the:

Sea Cadets
Army Cadets
Royal Air Force Air Cadets
or Volunteer Cadet Corps

and take part in countless activities that are on offer such as rock climbing, shooting, sailing and loads more!

No military experience required as full training is provided along with opportunities for qualifications.



Visit
adultvolunteer.org

You'll make a big difference to their lives...
and to yours