

Cosford Apprentice

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AIR FORCE
COSFORD**

AUTUMN 2022

THE MAGAZINE OF RAF COSFORD



IN THIS ISSUE...

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plus much more...



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**Please send all articles for the
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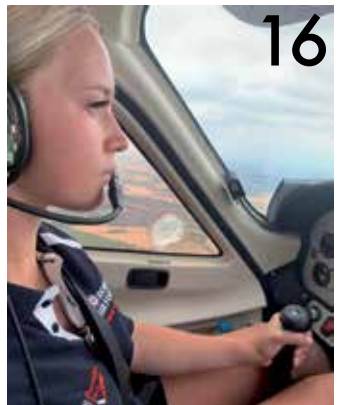
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Cosford Apprentice Distribution Team Members Required!

Have you ever wondered how the Apprentice gets to your door, business or waiting room? Apprentice distribution team members are needed to assist with the delivery of the quarterly Apprentice magazine.

Delivery areas include all of the Cosford married quarter sites, on station and local businesses. This duty is currently undertaken by a few to the benefit of many so, if you can spare an hour or so every three months we would appreciate your help.

A worthwhile community project and secondary duty to enhance any SJAR!

Interested? Please contact any member of the Apprentice team listed on this page.

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FROM THE EDITOR



It's been an interesting and busy few weeks. Since the last edition we've held the first air show since 2019 and welcomed Gp Capt Gibb as our new Stn Cdr. Most importantly we said farewell to Her Late Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II and saw His Majesty King Charles III accede to the throne. RAF Cosford played a large part in Her Late Majesty's funeral with over 300 personnel having a direct role. It wouldn't be appropriate to try and rush through any article regarding Her Late Majesty's State Funeral in this edition but there will be something in the next one later this year highlighting some of our colleagues' involvement and their memories of the rehearsals and the funeral.

This edition of the Cosford Apprentice contains an eclectic mixture of articles covering charity events, community projects and other activity that have happened across the station. I hope you enjoy this edition and, as always, should you have any articles you wish to submit please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Sqn Ldr Chris Wilson
Media Officer

FOREWORD

By Group Captain Cameron GW Gibb MBA BENG (HONS) CENG CMGR MIET MCMI RAF

It's a great honour to write out to you as your new Station Commander and to reflect on a very busy and successful summer period for RAF Cosford. Welcoming back our Airshow in June after a 3 year break has signalled that much awaited getting together again that we have all looked forward to, and the day lived up to our expectations I'm sure you will agree. With all of the RAF's display teams here to wow the crowds and a fantastic range of flying displays from our overseas partners and civil teams, there were no shortage of thrills or smiling faces. It was also nice to see the range of ground displays, interactive events and our STEM arena, which combined with our stalls, vintage village and fairground provided something of interest for all ages. My thanks go out to the Team who worked tirelessly behind the scenes to bring the Airshow together – thank you!

It's been a busy time too for our training schools and permanent staff across the Station as we have successfully graduated a number of engineer, cyber, physical training and photographer courses – trainees going on to serve in a variety of roles across the United Kingdom. It has also been important to ensure that on their journey they get a sense of what they will experience through their careers and the importance of working with our communities and building our own personal resilience to cope with the demands of Service life.

RAF Cosford personnel have undertaken a range of community projects in the local area, No1 Radio School assisted



a local charity in reorganising their premises and also another project to tidy up an outdoor area at a local wildlife centre. On Station we have also reopened our Airplay Youth club following a refurbishment. This was completed with support from the RAF Benevolent Fund and our own Cosford Community Support Team. I hope those of you with

children are able to enjoy some of what's on offer.

The summer period has also seen personnel support the Commonwealth Games 2022 in Birmingham and No1 School of Technical Training heading to RAF Fairford to support the Royal International Air Tattoo, some even managed to squeeze in a photo with Tom Cruise – I'm sure it made his day! As the home of RAF Sports, we hosted the inter-services athletics competition and have set up a new Station Archery club. So there is much to see and do outside of work and more to come in the autumn.

I look forward to meeting you in the coming months and thank you all for the part you play in supporting what we do here.

“ Welcoming back our Airshow in June after a 3 year break has signalled that much awaited getting together again that we have all looked forward to, and the day lived up to our expectations I'm sure you will agree. With all of the RAF's display teams here to wow the crowds and a fantastic range of flying displays from our overseas partners and civil teams, there were no shortage of thrills or smiling faces. ”



AIR CADETS GO FOR GOLD

Over the summer, personnel from Cyber Security Flight of No1 Radio School, delivered 3 weeks of a Cyber Gold training course to 48 RAF Air Cadets. The course started with an introduction 'what is cyber?' and looked at what threat actors exist globally, for which the RAF must be aware of.

The cadets then went on to learn about offensive and defensive cyber techniques, with theory lessons being backed up by online Immersive Lab sessions. This gave them hands on practice as to what tools are available to both attackers and defenders of the cyber environment. Providing them with this insight into the Cyberspace Profession will help the cadets with making their choices of career pathways for the future, whilst allowing them to educate other members of their squadrons with how 'cyber' can affect us all.

The RAF instructors were delighted with the level of engagement the air cadets gave the course, seeing them all pass the course and be presented with their Cyber Gold badge by OC No. 1 Radio School.



ALBRIGHTON WAR MEMORIAL PROJECT

Personnel from the Aerosystems Engineering and Management Training School recently completed a community project in Albrighton. The war memorial there had started to look a bit tired and was in much need of a spruce up prior to Remembrance commemorations that will take place there later this year. The 7-strong team spent 2 days cutting back large amounts of undergrowth and clearing the flagstones around the memorial. The space now looks a lot clearer; well done to everyone who took part.



A Fond Farewell to the T101 'Commander' RADAR

You may or may not have known but in the far corner of Cosford Airfield lurked a high power (200,000 Watt!) Air Defence RADAR known as the Type 101 or just T101. The T101's purpose is to provide long range, high and low altitude target detection out to approximately 250nm.

The T101 entered service with the RAF during the late 90's and by the early 2000's had been fully installed into the three remote mountain site RRHs in the Falkland Islands. One system became the training system at Cosford and two deployable systems also equipped 1 Air Control Centre (1ACC) to provide a rapidly deployable Air Defence Surveillance capability.

1ACC deployed the T101 across the world into many operational environments. After the 9/11 attacks they rapidly deployed to provide additional UK RADAR surveillance. During Op TELIC 1ACC initially deployed to Cyprus to provide air surveillance in support of the invasion of Iraq and later forward deployed into Iraq itself. As part of the NATO Response Force, 1ACC successfully deployed to Camp Bastion where they provided air surveillance and control capabilities across the south of the country in support of Op HERRICK and NATO's International Security Assistance Force (ISAF).

After returning to the UK and undertaking deep maintenance (to remove the Afghan dust!) 1ACC successfully provided advanced Air Defence coverage to the London Olympics under Op OLYMPIC, this is despite the bright idea of the operator cadre of wanting to deploy the T101 on top of a block of flats! Back to high intensity air operations,

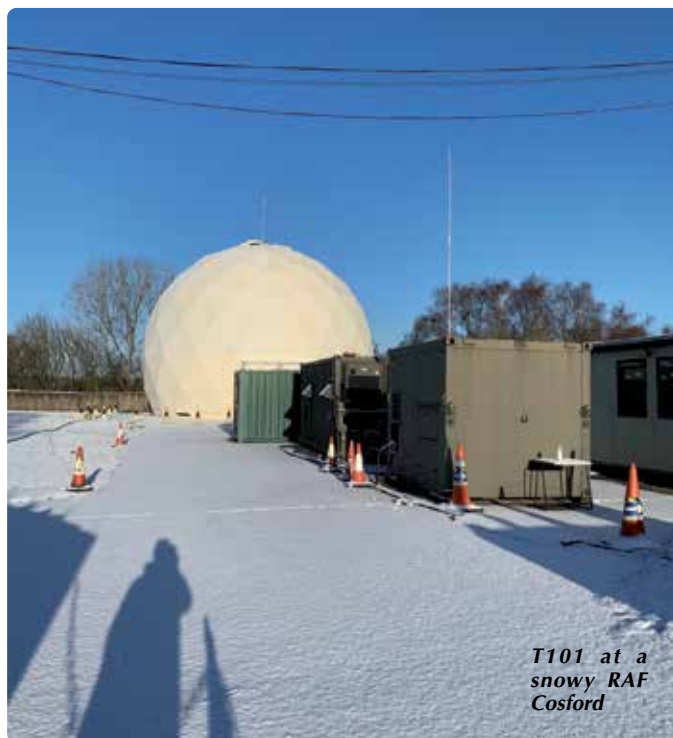
1ACC again stepped up to the plate and deployed the T101 back into Cyprus, this time for Op SHADER. They again provided advanced air surveillance and control capabilities to allied planners and aircraft.

Training for the T101 has been conducted at RAF Cosford for approximately 22 years under various forms. During this time over 600 TG3/4 maintenance personnel were trained to be employed by 1ACC and as OOA deployments for the three mountain sites in the Falkland Islands.

However, due to the direction of TG4 now focusing on Cyberspace and 1ACC's role changing, it has become unfeasible for the Trade to sustain the maintenance of the T101. As a result, Aquilla have been awarded the contract to provide enduring engineering support to the T101 in the Falkland Islands. As part of this contract the training RADAR at Cosford is to be cannibalised for spares to further support the existing T101s and will therefore mean no further RAF delivered training will be delivered.

And this is where our story ends, it's been a genuine pleasure to instruct on 'heavy' RADAR over the past few years and the T101 Instructional team would like to thank the support given by No.1 Radio School and RAF Cosford station.

Sgt Jonny Lines



T101 at a snowy RAF Cosford



T101 at Camp Bastion, Op HERRICK



'Sabre Cross' at RRH Byron Heights, Falkland Islands



RRH Mt. Alice, Falkland Islands

2050
Net-Zero
Emissions

PROJECT GREENSPACES TerraCycle

Since the Cosford Green Team got together they have been trying to identify quick and easy ways to reduce RAF Cosford's carbon footprint. The MOD has a commitment to reach NetZero by 2050 (with an aspiration to reach the goal much sooner), so every initiative should be considered.

What is known, is that there are many items Cosford sends to landfill every day, and sometimes we don't have a choice. But when FS Nic Tait found out about Terracycle, and that there was a local drop off point in Telford, it presented a lightbulb moment.

Terracycle is a recycling company with a difference. US based, it proudly recycles what most of us would consider unrecyclable: cigarette waste, plastic toys, pet food pouches and more. Looking at their website it was clear there were options available to Cosford, to reduce its overall environmental impact, by sending less waste to landfill. Medical blister packs, dental products and writing instruments were identified as products Cosford could recycle straightaway.

Both the medical and dental centres were enthusiastic about

the idea, immediately providing collection boxes, displaying posters about the scheme, and advising customers how to contribute. A station-wide announcement also saw SPFS, HRC4 and PED Flt come forward to offer themselves as drop off points. SPFS, being widely visited and centrally located, is proving to be a popular point, with the most items collected so far, as can be seen in the photo.

A group of trainees volunteered their time with Project Greenspaces in the summer and created a collection point in their accommodation block. They also contributed to the leaflets and posters now available to promote the collection points and raise awareness of this scheme.

With environmental issues demanding more of our awareness, Cosford can't ignore the part it plays. Local



government is slowly making changes that will eventually turn the tide on the crisis. But as individuals we have more control than we initially think. If one person recycles one marker pen, it sounds insignificant, but

there are thousands of people at Cosford. If every person chose to take their empty pens to a drop off point, instead of putting them in the bin, just think of how much landfill waste could be prevented. Cosford would then be part of the solution, rather than continuing to be part of the problem.

There are loads more ways to recycle, and you can find them by searching the Terracycle website – perhaps you will be inspired to start your own collection?

The aspiration of the Green Team, for RAF Cosford, is that every workplace and classroom will have collection boxes, and willingly support the scheme by helping with collections. You can find out more about how to get involved, and be part of this team, by contacting FS Nicola Tait. Sometimes the smallest things are the big things!



NEW STATION GYM WALL

The Graphics team, lead on this project by Jessica Grainger, have done a phenomenal job in designing and painting a new mural in the station gym. Jessica originally created 2 designs with various colourations. She took inspiration from Olympic graphics and the mechanics of the body when producing such drastic movements to win at events such as the Olympics and World sporting events. She looked at other external and internal graphic murals/graffiti. She gained inspiration from well-known sports brands and how they effectively integrate their brand with sporting events. All this she then linked to the RAF, and immediately noticed the movements were not dissimilar to that of aircraft efflux, so put all this information together to create the design that can be seen in the gym today. It took approximately 15 days to hand paint it onto the wall.

The design was done during Covid but was only recently completed; it took 15 days to finish once painting began.



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ANNUAL RECEPTION



The annual reception is a key event in any RAF station's calendar. It is the event at which local people are thanked for their support to the station's activities throughout the previous 12 months. Usually including a reception, a sunset ceremony and a flypast by an aircraft from the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight. RAF Cosford's annual reception has for the last 3 years been particularly unique in that it is held in conjunction with the RAF Museum Midlands, providing a stunning backdrop to proceedings.





This year's event was held on 8 September and was many months in the planning. On the day the weather was in the balance. The afternoon was often bright and warm but the final few hours were overcast by the news of Queen Elizabeth's deteriorating health. The event began as normal with guests arriving from half past five; however, the weather rapidly became worse, the flypast was cancelled and it was decided to switch to a wet weather programme in which the sunset ceremony took place but was watched from inside

the Museum's Hangar One. At half past six, as the parade was about to march on, the news broke that Her Majesty had died. A very quick decision was made that the sunset ceremony would take place and that the annual reception would then be brought to an early close.

The parade marched on in the knowledge that the Queen had died and that we had a new King. The playing of the National Anthem by the RAF Cosford Voluntary Band during the sunset ceremony was particularly poignant that evening.



SUMMER CADET CAMPS



Over the Summer period you might have seen a lot of young cadets marching around the station and been wondering what they were doing. With Covid restrictions lifted, RAF Cosford finally got to host 6 separate week-long Air Cadet camps and welcome back the RAF Air Cadets (RAFAC) and Combined Cadet Forces (CCF) to the station. This being the first set of camps since 2019, there was a lot of work to do to get everything ready. However, the staff and facilities at RAF Cosford allowed for the Air Cadets to hold worthwhile camps filled with exciting activities and opportunities that many of the cadets will have never experienced before.

The weeks all varied slightly but all included some core activities including visits to the National Arboretum, RAF Museum Midlands, some shooting range days co-ordinated by the Armoury, a visit to the AMSU at RAF Shawbury and even some air experience flying (weather permitting).

During the camps, the cadets had a variety of main activities that took place in the various schools. Flowerdown Hall included visits to the TEL Lab, a rundown of what No. 1 Radios School teaches, and



Two opportunities were coordinated through contacts of officers on the Camp and proposed to/ agreed by the ACLO and integrated into a revised programme. Subsequently visits to RAF Shawbury and HMS Severn, were both thoroughly enjoyed by the cadets. I am extremely grateful to both Flt Lt Adrian Vine and Lieutenant Commander Grahame Flint for these opportunities which helped shape various days of the camp."





some hands-on experience with coding. The cadets also spent some time at No.1 School of Technical Training where they got to have visits to WSTF, AvTF and the MTS. The Defence School of Photography also hosted the cadets and gave them a tour of the facility and Centenary Room. The visits allowed cadets to get up close with the aircraft, learn about roles in the RAF, and get a taste for the engineering involved.

The cadets also spent some time with the padre at the community centre to have a chat about how the RAF supports its personnel and what the padres do... and then they were immediately sent off to an



adapted Battle PT session with the stations PTIs! (which they thoroughly enjoyed).

In each week-long camp the cadets also took part in lots of activities in their free time too. These included movie nights, sports, archery, drill competitions, a visit to HMS Severn, bowling, trampolining, Ninja Warrior and even a disco.



Running all these activities during the summer holidays is not a small job, and the amount of station personnel involved cannot be understated. The collective feedback from all the camps has been amazing, and everyone has played a part in making the cadet experience a great one. Thanks to the ACLO and his team as well as everyone else who gave up their time to make these camps happen.

“

...Further thanks goes out to the armoury team who were fantastic at accommodating our needs and demonstrated flexibility to enable us to book weapons and a range out for an additional day. Further thanks to Cpl Young and Cpl Disley (MTS Cosford) who entertained a section visit from the camp and the photographer Sgt Reynolds, who all entertained the camp on BH Thursday. The JRM staff were courteous and worked hard to ensure any last-minute changes for pack ups or dietary and allergy needs were accommodated for, the cadets thoroughly enjoyed the range and quality of meals available”

“

Virtually all station staff couldn't be more helpful; Jo in the Props Mess office team was brilliant, Debbie in MT had our vehicles all geared up ready for our arrival and all section visits were engaging and enjoyed by the cadets and staff.”



JUNIOR RANKS PILOT SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME

My name is Roberta, I am currently an Avionics student at Cosford and this year I was offered a place on the, funded by the RAF Charitable Trust. I initially applied online late 2021 and received the news that I had been offered a place on the scheme in March this year, 2022.

I couldn't believe it and I was so excited to start flying as I've wanted to fly since my first flight in a light aircraft when I was 15, I hope one day to become a pilot. During my time on the scheme so far, I now have just under 6 hours of flying under my belt and I am close to flying my first solo, which sounds scary but also very exciting as well and I am looking forward to it. I have also been given the chance to complete the ground school exams with the scheme and so far, I have passed the Air Law and Human Performance exams. I have been taught how to refuel the aircraft and used instruments that I have been learning how to fix in my phase 2 training.



I was given the chance to attend the Royal International Air Tattoo as part of the scholarship team to promote the scheme as well as support the charitable trust. It was an amazing weekend and I had the chance to participate in the social media for RAF Sport Aircraft where I got to meet astronaut Tim Peake and the display pilots, including the Red Arrows, learning how they all felt during their first solo which provided me with comfort and advice.

I am truly in debt to the RAF Charitable trust for providing my first 15 hours of flight training and I can't thank them enough, it has always been a dream of mine to



fly. I highly recommend applying for the scheme if you are a junior rank or junior officer and you wish

to fly. The scholarship provides you with 15 hours of flying, the ground school exams for a PPL and an amazing experience.

AR Brown





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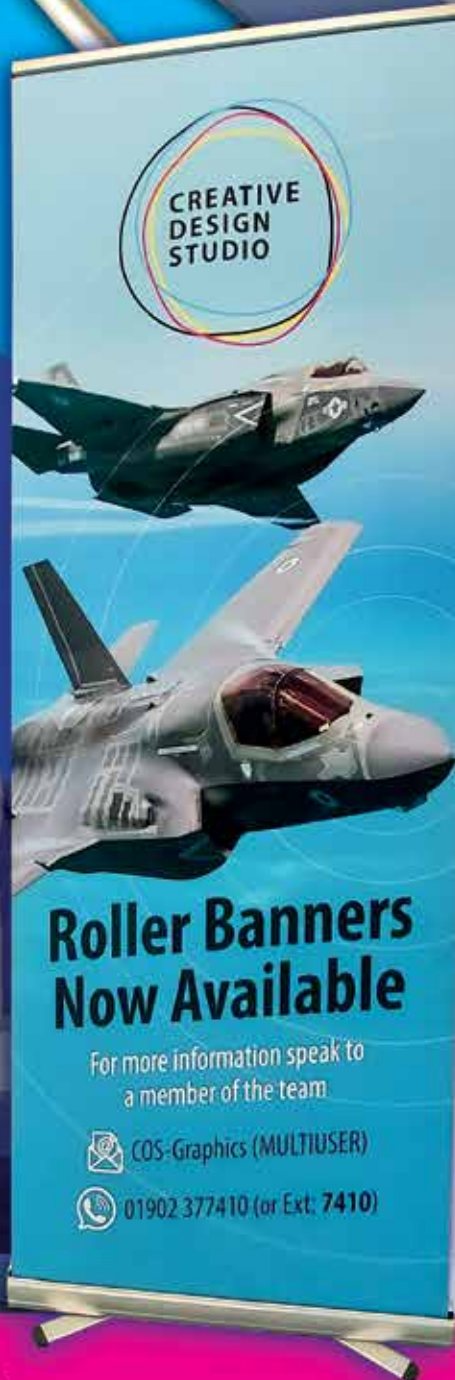
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104 MILES IN LESS THAN 24 HOURS



He's no stranger to long distance running, but even by his own standards Bruce's latest effort was truly epic.

To raise money for the RAF Association and raise awareness about mental health issues, Bruce decided to try and tackle 104 miles in under 24 hours. No, not a typo, 104 miles! Each mile run represented a year in the RAF's 104 year history.

he completed his mammoth challenge in 22 hours and arrived back at No.1 S of TT for the final time to his very proud family, friends, colleagues and a reporter from the BBC who wanted to interview him.

On 3 August, and after months of training, Bruce set off on four 26-mile loops of the local Shropshire countryside. Running throughout the night with a support team around him

With very tired legs and extremely painful feet at the end of his run, Bruce was justifiably saying never again. But Bruce has said that before and the RAF is 105 years old next year. What do you reckon, Bruce?





“
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THE SHIFNAL SENIORS CLUB

I am manager of small scheme based in Shifnal which is part of the national charity Methodist Homes, but is totally autonomous and struggles along relying on funding and donations. The Club enables older people to live later life well by facilitating activities and offering a range of services that will alleviate isolation and loneliness, encourage inclusion maintain independence.

Among other things the Club holds a Friendship group with light lunch and bingo, Mini Tuesday Trips, prescription delivery service, telephone befriending and a breakfast club which provides 3-hour dementia respite support. That Club has recognised that through Covid, their members have deteriorated both physically and mentally while being in isolation for so long.

They have recently been given use of the Seniors Hall in Curriers Lane, Shifnal and wanted to create a new garden. The plan was to call in the 'Well-being Jubilee Garden 2022'; however the quote for the work to create the garden has proved to be unreachable. It was at this point that Cosford was approached.

On 6 September personnel from SETS and JTDT completed



Well done to all involved

a small community project whereby they cleared the current garden space ready for the next stage of the work by specialist contractors. This in turn helped to keep the project costs down making it more affordable. The project was very successful and hopefully the

new garden is well on its way to being created which will then be used to deliver weekly garden and creativity sessions from the space to increase confidence, resilience and physical and mental wellbeing, share skills and knowledge while reducing loneliness and isolation.





During early September, No 1 Radio School held a 'Bake Off' competition in Flowerdown Hall in support of the local branch of SSAFA and the charity, Mind. The event was hugely successful and raised £277 for the charities through sales of the cakes. That there was any cake left to sell after self-appointed 'judges' Wg Cdr Tucker, WO Edwards and Bob Weyland had tried everything two or three times was a minor miracle.



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BAKE OFF





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A mortgage is a loan secured against your home. Your home may be repossessed if you do not keep up repayments on your mortgage. You may have to pay an early repayment charge to your existing lender if you remortgage.

Take the stress out of finding the right mortgage for you.

Call Tenet Mortgage Solutions Limited

01543 221 214

Lines are open:
Mon-Fri 9.00am - 5.00pm

or request a call-back at forcesmutual.org/money/mortgages/

Why choose the Mortgage Advice Service?

- ✓ Exclusive deals which aren't available directly from the high street
- ✓ Independent access to the mortgage market
- ✓ Fee-Free Mortgage Advice

Or scan QR code



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