Duchess launches Air Cadets’ 75th Anniversary
Nationwide Celebrations for ATC Sunday
Welcome to **AirCadet**

Happy 75th anniversary and what an incredible way to launch our year of celebrations.

The presence of our new Royal Patron, HRH The Duchess of Cambridge as well as our Ambassador, Honorary Group Captain Carol Vorderman, Chief of the Air Staff, and a host of other VIPs, at the special service church service at the RAF church at St Clement Danes certainly put the air cadets on the front pages around the world.

Worthy of front page news too was the wonderful anniversary cake (pictured here) that was made by Heather Bicknell, Civilian Chairman of March Squadron and an award winning international cake designer.

And, did you know, the knife that the Duchess used to cut the cake was made 75 years ago almost to the month? As you would expect, this issue is full of news about the 75th anniversary and the exciting events that are planned including the incredible squadron-wide sports challenge, the cross-Channel swim and the epic ATC torch relay around the United Kingdom.

Wherever you are and whatever you’re doing, enjoy this special year and whether you are a cadet or an adult volunteer make the most of every opportunity that comes your way in this very special year.

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In her first official engagement as Patron of the RAF Air Cadets, HRH The Duchess of Cambridge launched a year of cadet activity to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the formation of the Air Training Corps (ATC).

The Duchess attended a church service at the RAF Church at St Clement Danes, London and a reception held nearby at the Royal Courts of Justice. She met cadets, veterans and adult volunteers at the service and reception.

The Duchess took over the important role of Patron from HRH The Duke of Edinburgh just before Christmas, ending his 63-year association with this world-renowned uniformed youth organisation.

In her appointment the Duchess also represents members of the 200 RAF
sections of the school-based Combined Cadet Force (CCF). Many units are also celebrating their 75th anniversary this year.

**Honour**
The Duchess is only the third member of the Royal family to represent the RAF Air Cadets; she follows HRH The Duke of Edinburgh and, before him, HM King George VI. The Duchess attended the service wearing the Air Cadets Dacre brooch that was traditionally presented to the best female cadet. The brooch was presented every year between 1982, when girls were first admitted, up until last year, when it was agreed that girls should receive a sword like their male counterparts.

Commandant Air Cadets, Air Commodore Dawn McCafferty, said: “It is a real honour for us to have HRH The Duchess of Cambridge as our new Honorary Air Commandant and it is wonderful that she joined us on such an auspicious occasion.”

The cadets escorting the Duchess were the top ATC cadets of 2015, Cadet Warrant Officers David Timson, 19, of 1461 (Wigston and District) Squadron and Lucinda Conder, 19, of 344 (Fulham) Squadron. David said: “This is an amazing occasion in the history of the Air Cadets and something I will never forget.”

Lucinda said: “I love the Air Cadets, the opportunities it offers are brilliant and today was so special for us - we marked our 75th anniversary in true

By Denise Parker Housby, Head of Media & Communications
royal style – thank you to the Duchess of Cambridge and to our wonderful volunteers and veterans.”

Also attending the event were Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Sir Andrew Pulford, other members of the Air Force Board, senior members of the RAF Air Cadets and RAF Air Cadet Ambassador, Honorary Group Captain Carol Vorderman.

Talented
More than 500 cadets and volunteer staff filled the pews at St Clement Danes having first paraded through the streets of London. Amongst them were representatives from all six regions, including Cadet Warrant Officer Daniel Davidson, 423 (Elgin) Squadron, Cadet Sergeant Robert Morrison from 1731 (Isle of Lewis) Squadron and Squadron Leader Liz McLachlan from Highland Wing.

She said: “Robert and Daniel were selected to travel to London and represent all the cadets from across Highland Wing for this prestigious occasion. Seeing the Duchess of Cambridge and chatting to Group Captain Vorderman was a fantastic experience and one which they will never forget”.

A handful of veterans, now in their 80s and 90s also attended and recalled the early years of the ATC. Talented young musicians from the RAF Air Cadets’ musical quintet played at both the service and reception.

The 75th anniversary coincides with a recruitment campaign to bolster the number of adult volunteers who keep the ATC’s 1,000 squadrons running.

Proud
There are a number of events planned throughout 2016 to mark the anniversary of the ATC which was established in 1941 to help train young men in aviation skills before they joined the RAF to

“Air Cadets are outstanding ambassadors for this Nation, for the Ministry of Defence and for the Royal Air Force.”
defend their country during World War Two. Christopher Walkinshaw, Chairman of the Air League and also Chairman of 104 (City of Cambridge) Squadron, said: I am immensely proud that the Air League continues to have a close relationship with the Air Cadets, sponsoring flying scholarships and working together on a new programme to introduce the Air Cadets and the wonders of flying to young people from some of the most deprived areas in the country. As part of the 75th anniversary, we are also supporting a Build a Plane project in Northern Ireland, through which we will, hopefully, see a light aircraft built by air cadets, take to the skies to mark the RAF’s centenary in 2018.”

Impressed
Minister for Reserves, Julian Brazier, added: “It gives me great pleasure to mark the 75th anniversary of the ATC by reflecting on the Corps as it is today and how it will take the next generation of young air cadets forward.

“I have only recently assumed responsibility for the Cadet Forces as part of my portfolio but I am delighted to have the opportunity to work with such an incredible group of young people and the adult volunteers who support them.

“I am always so impressed when I see cadets in the community ... They look so smart, they are always smiling, they are polite and they have an air of self-confidence borne of their exceptional training and the fact that they belong to a world-class uniformed youth organisation that is held in the highest regard around the globe. Air Cadets are outstanding ambassadors for this Nation, for the Ministry of Defence and for the Royal Air Force.”

An estimated 2 million UK citizens are either former air cadets or associated with the ATC and CCF (RAF).

For a roundup of the nationwide celebrations for ATC Sunday see pages 36-39.
Air Cadet Aviation Relaunch

In April 2014 all Air Cadet Organisation gliding was paused due to airworthiness concerns with the Grob Viking conventional glider and Grob Vigilant motorglider fleets utilised by the Air Cadet Volunteer Gliding Squadrons (VGS). Substantial operational, technical and commercial negotiations with a range of aerospace leaders in this field have failed to find a value for money approach to successfully repair and recover all 146 gliders ...

Consequently a comprehensive Air Cadet Organisation review has proposed restructuring this activity.

It has been decided that the best value for money solution is to recover at least 73 Vikings, a reduced Vigilant fleet of up to 15 aircraft, combined with an uplift to Grob Tutor fixed wing Air Experience Flights (AEFs).

The reduced glider fleet will be operated by significantly fewer, but larger, VGS, which will have a regional focus and be better integrated with synthetic training and increased AEF locations.

The number of Grob Tutor aircraft beyond 2017 for AEF/ University Air Squadron (UAS) use will go from 45 to 70 airframes, enabling the enlargement of existing AEFs and the formation of two new AEFs. Regional VGS hubs, which have the facility to provide overnight accommodation, will be also created across the UK.

The Volunteer Gliding Squadrons that are due to be disbanded are:
- 611 Squadron currently based at RAF Honington
- 612 Squadron currently based at Dalton Barracks (Abingdon)
- 613 Squadron currently based at RAF Halton
- 616 Squadron currently based at RAF Henlow
- 618 Squadron currently based at RAF Odiham
- 624 Squadron currently based at RMB Chivenor
- 633 Squadron currently based at RAF Cosford
- 634 Squadron currently based at MOD St Athan
- 635 Squadron currently based at RAF Topcliffe
- 642 Squadron currently based at Swansea Airport
- 662 Squadron currently based at RAF Linton-on-Ouse
- 663 Squadron currently based at Kinloss Barracks
- 664 Squadron currently based at Newtownards.

The Volunteer Gliding Squadrons that are due to be retained are the Central Gliding School and 644 Squadron currently based at RAF Syerston, 614 Squadron currently based at MDP Wethersfield, 615 Squadron currently based at RAF Kenley, 622 Squadron currently based at Trenchard Lines Upavon, 626 Squadron currently based at RNAS Predannack, 631 Squadron currently based at RAF Woodvale, 632 Squadron currently based at RAF Ternhill, 637 Squadron currently based at RAF Little Rissington, 661 Squadron currently based at ...
at RAF Kirknewton and 645 Squadron currently based at Topcliffe (from October 2019). 621 Squadron currently based at Hullavington will be retained at RNAS Merryfield.

As part of this process, a number of regional gliding hubs are to be created. We also expect that 2 new Air Experience Flights will be created, 13 AEF and 14 AEF. It is anticipated that 14 AEF will be located in Northern Ireland.

While work is undertaken to set up this new structure, the future locations of these Squadrons remains subject to the outcome of MOD estate rationalisation due to announce later this year.

While it is likely that many Squadrons will remain at their current locations, we are working to ensure that, where this is not the case, flying opportunities will be made available to Cadet Units within their region and any new locations will be as geographically close to the existing locations as possible.

We recognise that this means that some uncertainty will remain for our cadets, but we are confident that this new structure will maximise flying opportunities for them. As VGS are run by volunteer staffs, this will not result in any job losses, albeit volunteering options will be affected. The RAF is extremely grateful for the volunteers that support each VGS; without this support Air Cadet gliding would not be possible.

Consequently we will develop a crossover plan which will enable many volunteer gliding instructors who become surplus on affected VGS to convert to Viking; transfer to a formally established ground cadre within a VGS; transfer their instructional skill sets into the units of the mainstream Air Cadet Organisation; or to retrain to fly the Grob Tutor in the expanded AEF construct.

The RAF remains committed to Air Cadet flying and will ultimately increase investment in the VGS and AEF sites which will remain to include the provision of residential accommodation for cadets and staff.

This will enable those cadet units which have to travel greater distances to the VGS to undertake a residential weekend, with better associated force development and ground training opportunities alongside the gliding and flying.

With the introduction of glider simulators, funded by the RAF Charitable Trust, the Air Cadet Organisation have developed a common syllabus for cadet flying which better integrates and allocates cadet flying opportunities between realistic synthetic flight simulation, glider flying and an uplift of AEF flights.

We will make a further statement when we can say more on basing.

Commandant Air Cadets, Air Commodore Dawn McCafferty offered her views on the restructuring:

“...I am acutely conscious that the news of the restructuring of Air Cadet flying opportunities is only just sinking in, creating understandable uncertainty across the Organisation. Rest assured, the RAF looked long and hard at all of the available solutions and the decision made was the very best one to maintain air cadet flying opportunities. As I have said to many who challenge the changing face of cadet flying, the RAF has lost several frontline fleets in my time as a serving officer and has adapted accordingly. Change is inevitable and continuous and we, like the mainstream RAF, must embrace it.”

Air Commodore McCafferty added “Everyone from CAS down did their very best to maintain as much cadet flying as possible.

“...To be absolutely clear, less gliding does not mean less flying, indeed, there will be more flying opportunities available. Therefore, we will need to make the very best of the situation and I look forward to joining as many of you as possible on the journey to a different but still air-minded cadet experience.”
“Proud to have been an Air Cadet” are the words on the ribbon around my neck on which hangs my ID card as I write these words. And I am. I am also proud to have been given the opportunity to write this foreword in this special year for the Air Cadets; my last opportunity too before I retire in the Summer.

Memorable early milestones on that journey include my three solo launches on a Kirby Cadet Mk 3 at Swanton Morley, and the award of a Flying Scholarship (which I was never able to take up as I had joined the RAF).

But enough of history; we will hear much this year of the last 75 years, and we have started the celebrations in style.

The Air Cadet Sunday service at St Clement Danes was a wonderful occasion; the weather was kind to us and the presence of our new Royal Patron and our Ambassador (both media favourites) ensured welcome news coverage that we have often lacked in the past. We need to shout more about how good we are!

In my own Region, I look forward particularly to two major celebrations, in Liverpool (using both cathedrals.) and in Cardiff. I am also planned to go to my third country, and celebrate ATC 75 with No 1 (Overseas) Squadron in Cyprus.

The Air Defence Cadet Corps, precursor to the ATC, was primarily a recruiting and pre-entry training organisation; we are not. Not least because the current RAF is now only about one fifth the size of the one I joined; most of us are aware that the ACO now has considerably more people in uniform than our parent Service.

I believe that the second and third aims on the Royal Warrant are the more important ones right now. Pour memoire, they are:

- To provide training which will be useful in both the services and civilian life.
- To foster a spirit of adventure and to develop the qualities of leadership and good citizenship.

For me, that meant going solo in a jet at age 19; (might be tricky these days.), but quite simply, it means that whatever you do, you will do it better having been an Air Cadet.

Just less than 75 years ago, US President Roosevelt said: “We cannot always build the future for our youth, but we can build our youth for the future.” The ATC has been doing that for 75 years, and I’m sure will continue for many more. Proud to have been an Air Cadet?

Most certainly; or as I would have said in my youth: “Not ‘arf!”
On your marks, Get set, Enter the sports challenge!

Cadets and staff up and down the country are being urged to don their trainers and take on the ATC 75 Sports Challenge.

The initiative, designed to promote fitness and raise sponsorship money, is open to every single squadron and features five challenges.

These are to be completed by cadets and staff on a parade night between the 30th May and the 31st July. Cadets and staff will represent their squadron by working as teams and individually to complete the challenges and post their scores. The results will be scored pro-rata to determine the winning Squadron, Wing and Region.

Scoring and Rewards:
Each squadron will submit the average score across all teams that complete the challenges. This is done to promote fairness across all units due to the variation in squadron strengths. Rewards will be awarded to the top ten overall squadron scores, top ten overall Wing scores and the top three regional scores.

All Squadrons that take part in the challenges will receive a certificate celebrating their participation in the ATC 75 sports challenge. Good luck!

For more information on sponsorship forms see www.raf.mod.uk/aircadets

Challenge 1: Keepy Ups
This challenge is a test of coordination. In teams of five, you must juggle a football as many times as possible in the allotted 75 second time frame. Each team will have three attempts at this challenge. Points are awarded for each juggle completed. A 30 point bonus is available if a team can continuously juggle the ball without it touching the floor during the timeframe.

Challenge 2: Target Practice
This challenge is a test of distance perception. The aim of this challenge is to hit a tennis ball with a hockey stick into the target situated 7.5 meters away. The target is two circles, one inside another. Points are awarded to the number of balls that finish up in the target.

Challenge 3: Shuttle Runs
This challenge is a test of speed endurance. The aim of this challenge is to complete 75 shuttle runs in the allotted time (7 ½). In your teams of five, you will all each need to complete 15 shuttles in order to complete the total 75. Shuttle-runs will be completed individually. Points will be awarded for the total number of shuttles completed in the allotted time.

Challenge 4: The Plank
This challenge is a test of core strength endurance. The aim of this challenge is to hold the plank position for as long as you can. Points will be awarded for each time checkpoint reached. This challenge will be performed in teams of five.

Challenge 5: Skipping
This challenge is a test of teamwork and coordination. The aim of this event is to complete as many skips in the allotted time (75 Seconds). The challenge must be completed in teams of five. Two cadets either end of the rope and one cadet in the middle (the skipper). Each team will have five attempts. They must rotate the skipper per attempt.
Embracing the Cyberspace Age in the RAF

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

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

The typical responsibilities for a Cyberspace Communication Specialist are:

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

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

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

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

Cyberspace Communication Specialist - SAC Steven Barnett

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

Why did you decide to join the RAF?
It gave me an opportunity to both acquire a skill set and trade as well as being able to apply my new skills practically as I learnt them. Getting paid to learn also worked well for me as I have been able to gain a number of new qualifications – all whilst being trained by the RAF.

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

What type of training have you had to undertake in the RAF?
I completed 13 months of apprenticeship training at RAF Cosford, this covered a wide variety of subjects, with server,
networking and IT essentials being particularly useful for this role. Further role-specific training was taken upon arriving at RAF Coningsby.

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

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

**Have you done any Adventurous Training or extra activities since joining the Service?**
During apprenticeship training at RAF Cosford I went for a week to FDTC Crickhowell with my course. We took part in mountain biking, caving and walking around the Welsh countryside, which was a fantastic experience and something I hope to do again in the near future.

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

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

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

**How does RAF life fit in with seeing your family and friends?**
RAF life fits well with seeing my friends and family as I’m not really too far away from them. The weekends are still great opportunities to see the people you care about. Not to mention the ability to take leave for time away from your base.

**Why would you recommend a career in the RAF?**
For the prospects of being paid to learn a trade, have a secure job, competitive salary, top medical and dental care and the opportunities to travel, both in the UK and overseas.

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

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

Whether you want to be a pilot, chef, engineer or technician in the Royal Air Force, you can find out everything you need to know about all of our career options by simply visiting www.raf.mod.uk/recruitment or calling 0345 605 5555. 
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This year marks the Diamond Anniversary of the Duke of Edinburgh’s Award. In the last 60 years over eight million young people across the globe, including thousands of air cadets, have given it their all through the DoE Award.

Now, as part of the DoE’s Diamond Anniversary celebrations, they are inviting everyone to take the DoE Diamond Challenge, rising to a new challenge to help raise money for the charity.

Air Commodore Dawn McCafferty, Commandant Air Cadets, has accepted the challenge is planning to confront her fear of heights and do a wing walk next month.

The money she raises will be split equally between enhancing delivery of the DofE Scheme to air cadets and providing funds for the new 75th Anniversary bursary scheme to support cadets and young adult volunteers.

At the time of writing, more than £1,400 has been pledged but Air Commodore McCafferty is hoping that will increase before she completes her challenge.

She said: “The wing walk is provisionally planned for 14 May in Yorkshire and I am already having nightmares about it! I really don’t do heights, so best you sponsor me to make it worth my suffering!”

To find out more, visit www.justgiving.com/Dawn-McCafferty

Air Cadets, former cadets and dedicated ACO adult volunteers will have the honour this summer of carrying the 75th torch during its sponsored epic journey around the United Kingdom.

The special 75th torch, based on the image on the Cadet Forces Medal, will begin its mammoth journey from John O’Groats to Cornwall in mid-July.

En route it will be transported by land, sea and air, passing through dozens of cadets’ hands and stopping off at some very famous addresses, including Buckingham Palace and No 10 Downing Street!

Commandant Air Cadets, Air Commodore Dawn McCafferty, said: “Quite simply, our 75th torch is going on a sponsored journey across the UK that is all about Venture Adventure. We hope that many cadets and staff will join the torch on its travels and that we can use this epic journey to mark the ATC 75th Anniversary in a way that is challenging and fun, bringing together the whole of the Air Cadet Organisation to ensure the safe transit of our special torch.”

The torch will start from John O’Groats and travel to the Shetland and Orkney Islands by ferry. It will then return to the Highlands of Scotland, after which it will visit RAF Lossiemouth, Edinburgh Castle, Dundee, the Forth Bridge and Stirling Castle. It will then move across the sea to Northern Ireland to visit the Giants’ Causeway before returning to Scotland, where it will travel to the Carter Bar and be bagpiped across the border into England. It will then make an appearance at the Sunderland Air Show before visiting the Angel of the North and a Vulcan aircraft.

Next, it’s off to Windermere in the Lake District, one of our Adventure Training Centres, and from there to visit Old Trafford Football and cricket ground, then on to Liverpool Football ground and then off for a flight in a Chipmunk aircraft.

The torch is then going to be handed across Wings by a former cadet, who joined in 1941, to a current, recently-joined cadet. Next stop is RAF St Athan, then the Millennium Stadium and RAF Cosford before it attends a Last Post and Reveille parade as well as a civic reception with VIPs and celebrities. The next day, the torch will be travelling down a river with a flotilla of kayaks, then off to a night exercise, followed by marching with the cadets in one of the Nijmegen Teams before attending a Sunset Ceremonial Parade at the most easterly part of the UK.

Next, it’s on to the nation’s capital with visits planned to the Shard, Tower Bridge, the Tower of London, the London Eye before visiting the Queen at Buckingham Palace and the Prime Minister at No 10. After calling in at Wembley Stadium, the torch heads to Bognor Regis where it will travel on board a Royal National Lifeboat and fly in a Chinook helicopter.

Then, after another sailing trip on HMS Excellence, the torch is off to visit Wookey Hole caves. Next it’s off to Dartmoor to walk with the Ten Tors team, before hitching a ride on a helicopter to create an aerial video of the final walk and handover. After all that, at the end of August, it’s joining a final parade at Predannack airfield to mark the end of an amazing journey.
Finalists Announced

Ten ATC cadets have been named as regional finalists in the prestigious Duke of Westminster Award.

The lucky ten will be joining 17 other young people who have all been chosen to attend this year’s challenging, four-day selection event in Somerset later this month.

CVQO received an outstanding set of submissions this year and the selection process was extremely tough. Those who unfortunately did not make the final 27 should be extremely proud that their units singled them out as being worthy of nomination.

A spokesman for CVQO added: “There were some fantastic submissions and although we would have loved to put you all through, very difficult decisions had to be made. There are 27 finalists this year - three more than last year. This simply reflects the outstanding calibre of the cadets who were nominated this year.”

The group will now face the rigours of the selection event in Somerset to determine the nine national finalists who will be heading to South Africa for a two-week educational expedition in the summer. One of these will also be crowned the overall winner at the House of Lords lunch event on June 30th in London.

The ACF will be represented by: George Binfield 2344 (Longbenton) Squadron; Jameel Campbell 241 (Wanstead & Woodford) Sqn; Christopher Dueck 2402 Burghfield Sqn; Tommy Fuller 29F (Rugby) Sqn; Jack Harries 2167 (Tredegar) Sqn; Stacey Harrington 1440 (Shoreham-by-Sea) Sqn; Cameron McEleney 2535 (Livingston) Sqn; Katerina Sales 358 (Welling) Sqn; Fizz Scarratt 1165 (Oswestry) Sqn and Lauren Thynne (19 Crawley) Squadron.

Carol Vorderman Opens ATC exhibition

Air Cadets’ Ambassador, Honorary Group Captain Carol Vorderman, has formally opened a new exhibition ‘Venture and Adventure’ at the RAF Museum, Hendon, which marks the 75th Anniversary of the Air Training Corps.

In the presence of distinguished guests including Maggie Appleton, Chief Executive of the Museum, Air Marshal Sir Baz North, Air Member for Personnel and Capability, Air Vice Marshal Andy Turner, and Air Commodore Dawn McCafferty, Carol Vorderman made a short speech before cutting the ribbon.

Project Officer Flight Lieutenant Roger Starling has been working closely with the museum over the last 12 months, gathering vital information and photos from a range of individuals from across the organisation, to produce the exhibition which chronicles the exciting story of the Corps, from 1941 when it was first founded right through to the experiences that Cadets now enjoy.

The exhibition, which opened at the beginning of February, features original artefacts from the Museum’s collection as well as offering the chance to sit in the cockpit of a Grob Viking glider.

Roger said: “The structure and content of the exhibition evolved during the 12 months whilst it was being prepared, and we were unable to include all of the material we acquired, but I am confident that the end result does full justice to the exciting story of our first 75 years, and will generate interest amongst visitors to the museum - including potential cadets and adult members of staff.”

Commenting about the exhibition Maggie Appleton said: “Celebrating the 75th anniversary of the ATC is very important to us simply because of what the ATC itself represents, and it is very important to acknowledge the inspiring young people of this country who have volunteered themselves in support of the RAF.”

A second, smaller exhibition will feature at the museum’s other site at RAF Cosford, Shropshire. Admission to both exhibitions is free and they will run until 12 February 2017.
To celebrate the 75th anniversary of the RAF Air Cadets, cadets are being given a unique chance to create a helmet design for the Team Leader of the Red Arrows.

This is your opportunity to produce a bold design, with the winning entry being professionally applied to the helmet worn by Red 1 in a Royal Air Force Aerobatic Team display.

The successful entry will be the best overall design, with the helmet painter bringing it to life. The finished helmet will be presented to Red 1 on July 8 and flown at the Royal International Air Tattoo.

The brief:

• The design should combine two themes: the Air Training Corps 75th anniversary and the Red Arrows.
• Cadets must hand-draw their design on to the blank templates provided.
• Up to 200 words may be submitted in support, to explain the design.

Entry terms:

• Each participant must be a serving cadet in the Air Training Corps or the CCF (RAF) and only one entry per cadet is allowed.
• Cadets should consider their availability to attend the Air Tattoo on July 8 but it’s not a prerequisite to enter the competition.

Red 1, Squadron Leader David Montenegro
Closing date for entries is May 6th, 2016. Send entries to:

**ATC75 Helmet Competition,**  
**Red Arrows Public Relations Department,**  
**Royal Air Force Aerobatic Team, RAF Scampton, Lincoln, LN1 2ST.**

Name & Rank:  

Squadron:  

Age:
Happy Birthday to you!

“The RAF Charitable Trust congratulates the Air Cadet Organisation on its 75th Anniversary and is proud to be associated with you. Since the Trust was formed just over 10 years ago we have been delighted to support many exciting projects, delivering adventure and aviation to young people, and have awarded over £1 million in grants. We look forward to continuing to work with you over the coming years.”

Sir Kevin Leeson, Chairman of the Trustees, Royal Air Force Charitable Trust.

By Jane Leigh - Press Officer, Royal Air Force Charitable Trust
Paddle power is now the order of the day for Surrey Wing cadets, with members of 1349 (Woking) Squadron taking to the water in a brand-new fleet of kayaks to be used by the Wing.

The kayaks and associated kit were largely financed with a grant of £5,000 from the RAF Charitable Trust. The Squadron’s cadets wasted no time in taking to the water, christening their new kit with an outing to Hawley Lake in Minley, near Farnborough, where they were able to learn the basics and polish their skills.

Cadet Corporal Edward Cabot, 15, said: “It was brilliant. Going in a straight line was hard at first as you just tend to go round in circles, but we had a great first session and we’re all looking forward to taking every chance to go canoeing this year. It’ll be even better when the weather’s warmer!”

Trustee Ian Beresford attended the Squadron’s recent annual inspection and award ceremony when the kayaks were officially handed over to the youngsters. The evening included a screening of a video showing the launch of the kayaks, proudly emblazoned with the logo of the Trust, and the good use to which they’ve been put.

Officer Commanding, Flight Lieutenant Ben White said: “With the support of the RAF Charitable Trust, 1349 (Woking) Squadron has now added a further activity to its programme of adventure training. Utilising a significant grant from the charity, the Squadron has been able to purchase eight kayaks, spray decks, buoyancy aids, air bags, paddles and helmets, enabling them – and the rest of Surrey Wing - to enjoy kayaking sessions on a regular basis.

“The grant means cadets now have the opportunity to gain nationally-recognised certificates, enhancing personal confidence and self-esteem and, with regular practice, to improve their wellbeing, sense of achievement and levels of fitness. The kit is being stored at the Woking HQ, and we’re aiming to offer kayaking to at least 550 young people in the next year. Many thanks to the Charitable Trust for making this new venture possible.”

To the top
Ten Air Cadets were amongst a party of 52 adventurers from the Giggleswick School Combined Cadet Force who headed to Scotland for winter mountaineering activities.

With the aid of a grant from the RAF Charitable Trust, the Air Cadets journeyed to the North West Highlands last month for a six-day expedition learning mountaineering skills. The expedition, named Ex Jacobite Venture, is part of the school’s four-year programme in which students learn mountaineering skills and take part in Duke of Edinburgh Award activities. It represents an opportunity for personal development as well as a significant challenge to all who take part.

On the Road
A transport of delight should soon be hitting the streets of Greater Manchester, partly funded by a grant of £12,750 from the RAF Charitable Trust.

Greater Manchester Wing applied for a grant to help them buy a people and equipment mover (also known as a combi-van) for Air Cadet use. The new vehicle will be able to move nine people and kit, and it is estimated that over 1,300 cadets and 366 staff will benefit, with more activities being made available for a better cadet experience.

Sqn Ldr Mike Dawson from Greater Manchester Wing HQ said: “The Wing is unique because of its size and the diversity of activities it provides to cadets. Over the last few years we have really struggled with our logistics capability so we were delighted to hear that the RAF Charitable Trust has recognised our issues and agreed to joint fund the purchase of a brand-new van. This simple yet vital piece of equipment will allow us to enhance our activity delivery and keep our volunteer staff equipped with the tools they need to do the job, all thanks to the RAF Charitable Trust.”

Standard Raised
Air Cadets from 2533 (Bodmin) Squadron will be parading with a brand-new standard, after being awarded a grant by the RAF Charitable Trust.

With the original Squadron banner looking decidedly the worse for wear after many years’ use, the cadets were delighted when the Trust backed their application for a new standard, providing a grant of £300. The unit had raised £200 towards the total cost and, after a £200 donation from the Bodmin branch of the Royal Air Force Association, the Trust was happy to step in and make up the rest of the £700 required.

Unit Chairman, Squadron Leader Stanley Beighton, said: “The Squadron will be parading with pride, carrying the new standard at many special events including celebrations marking the 75th anniversary of the ATC. We have some 40 cadets and staff, the only light blue footprint seen in town, who will benefit from the enhancement of the Squadron and Wing esprit de corps.”
Cadets Rescue Woman From Burning Car
Brave teenage air cadets have rescued a woman trapped inside a burning car following an accident.

Sixteen-year-old Cadet Sergeants Joshua Parry and Jack Whitworth from 162 (Stockport) Squadron were walking home from cadets when they witnessed the collision between two cars. One of the vehicles immediately burst into flames with the driver stuck inside unable to move her legs.

The cadets immediately dialled 999 and then rushed over to the burning car and pulled a woman from the vehicle, with the help of two men who were in the other car.

They moved the casualties to safety and administered First Aid whilst waiting for the ambulance to arrive. The boys then directed traffic away from the scene and showed other volunteers how to assist with First Aid.

“Basically, we took an old Ford Escort engine, stripped it down, cleaned it and rebuilt it,” explained 17-year-old Cadet Sergeant Alexander Findlay.

“Basically, we took an old Ford Escort engine, stripped it down, cleaned it and rebuilt it,” explained 17-year-old Cadet Sergeant Alexander Findlay.

“We explored the engine to learn how it works as we stripped and cleaned each part and we then rebuilt it so that it can be used as a learning resource to teach others,” he added. Cadet Louis Baptist, 16, said: “I enjoyed learning about the ignition most as we got to do some electronics too. We attached LEDs to the pistons so that when they move the LEDs ignite to simulate the spark on the pistons.”

Squadron Engineering Officer, Jonny Campbell, said: “The project was led by the young people which meant that they took ownership of it and chose to focus upon certain aspects of the engine which they were curious about, enjoyed working on or viewed as relevant. All of the young people showed commitment and hard work over a two-year period to earn their award and I’m very proud of them.”

Rhys Wilson, STEM Co-ordinator of Newcastle College, said: “It’s been a privilege to work with the staff and cadets of 2344 Squadron and to provide an opportunity for them to apply the skills and knowledge learned in a great project completed over a sustained period. The CREST Award reflects that hard work and dedication which will no doubt stand them in good stead throughout their lives.”

Phase two of the project will see the young people further develop their skills and knowledge, with the North East Reserve Forces and Cadet Association, as they undertake the challenge of working on an old car so it can pass an MOT.

Royal Date
Wing Commander Paul Bower has been made an Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (OBE) by HRH The Prince of Wales at Buckingham Palace.

A former Cadet Warrant Officer, Paul’s volunteer service with the Corps spans 37 years and shows no sign of stopping! During that time, he has commanded 1220 (March) Squadron; served on the Wing staff and, in 2002, became Officer Commanding Bedfordshire and Cambridgeshire Wing which he commanded for 11 years. He then became the Central & Eastern Regional Adventure Training Technical Officer, a post he still holds today. He has been incredibly influential in the development of the cadet experience, and tens of thousands of cadets and staff have benefited from his leadership and management.

Aided by his considerable experience as a highly qualified Mountain Leader he has been a key member of the Adventure Training Technical Panel, where he continues to champion change to ensure that high risk activity remains accessible for the majority. On receiving his OBE Wg Cdr Bower said: “The whole experience was quite amazing and I met some amazing people met who were also waiting for the presentation of their honours.”
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215 City of Swansea Squadron ATC at the Armed Forces Parade – Cardiff
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In the biggest expedition of its kind yet, dozens of cadets and staff hit the slopes for the 18th Alpine Adventure skiing trip in Allgau Bavaria...
More than 200 cadets from the length and breadth of the UK, supported by 19 ski instructors trained by Snow Sport Scotland (SSS) and 28 support staff, travelled to southern Germany making this 'Alpine Adventure' fittingly one of the biggest yet in the Corps’ 75th anniversary year.

The expedition, originally instigated by Bristol and Gloucestershire Wing, has been running for 20 years and is enormously popular. It was held in Scotland for the first two years but since then has made its home in the Bavarian Alps.

After arriving on the Saturday, Sunday morning is kitting out time when all the skiing equipment is issued from Wertach Sontoffen ski hire with skiing starting in the afternoon.

Challenging
Cadets aimed to achieve their Snow Life Award within a week, which featured nine levels of achievement and a variety of techniques and abilities to master.

After being divided into groups according to ability, the cadets started on the slopes at Oberjoch for three days before moving on to more challenging resorts such as Balderschwang, Stiebis.

On the last day of skiing, cadets, under the watchful eyes of Alpine Instructor SallyAnne Grimshaw, the Commandant, and the youngest cadet on the trip, Cadet Molony of 2328 (Bishop’s Cleeve) Squadron.

At the end of the evening, the Commandant said: “I saw the cadets having good fun while learning new skills and was enlightened as to the amount of time, planning, effort and care that the staff put into the expedition and seeing just what went into the organisation of such a trip.

Fabulous
“I have had a truly fabulous week with you and the rest of the Alpine Adventure team, far exceeding even my own high expectations.”

Flt Lt Grimshaw paid tribute to all those who made the expedition possible. She added: “It was a great privilege to oversee such a prestigious overseas expedition and adventure training exercise on the 75th Anniversary.”
The RAF Charitable Trust awarded a grant of £3,936 to the expedition, which aimed to give youngsters from a deprived area of the UK the chance to take part in a life-changing experience, helping others with significantly less than they have themselves.

The cadets and four adult instructors, from 282 (East Ham) Squadron, travelled to India in February.

They quickly adapted to desert life, travelling five days by camel to reach a remote village, where they worked with local people on a community project to refurbish a primary school. Expedition Co-ordinator Flight Lieutenant Chris Booty said: “This was the expedition of a lifetime, and no easy task for the cadets.

“As well as tackling climate difficulties they were also well out of their comfort zone, but embraced the challenges and carried out the refurbishment of a school in a deprived area.

“It was certainly a culture shock for the cadets, and the expedition gave them time to reflect on their lives and, from what they witnessed whilst in India, appreciate and value what they have.”

He added: “At times, it was emotional but very special. The cadets were so proud of what they did with the school, and the official handover ceremony made it that little bit more special. It
was a great sight to see both cultures working together, breaking through the communication barrier and having fun, playing cricket and cards on sand dunes."

After completing the school project the group had time to experience some of the sights of India, including Jodhpur Fort, Ranthombore Fort in the jungle – the highlight was seeing a Bengal tiger in the wild – and the Golden Temple at Amritsar. Here the cadets volunteered to help in the kitchens, cooking and feeding the visitors and the poor. Cadet Corporal Marcus Cleyders, 16, said: "Going to India was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, and it made me realise how lucky I am to have what I have and not take things for granted. These two weeks helped boost my confidence and ability to work with others. Many thanks to the Charitable Trust, and to my Officer Commanding and staff for enabling me to undertake such a magnificent expedition and create a memory that I will never forget."

Flt Lt Booty added: "I am very proud of the cadets and staff who took part in the expedition. Seeing the school kids smile with what the cadets gave them shows that the mission was a success, and that the team made a difference. A huge thank you to the Charitable Trust and the other sponsors who made the expedition possible: they all made a massive difference to many lives."

By Jane Leigh - Press Officer, Royal Air Force Charitable Trust
Air Squadron Trophy winners

Dulwich College has once again won the Air Squadron Trophy in the most prestigious competition within the Royal Air Force Sections of the Combined Cadet Force.

More than 230 cadets representing 18 CCF (RAF) Sections competed in the national finals, held at RAF Halton recently. For the first time, the top three teams in each Region earned a place at the event, increasing the number of teams from 12 to 18. Each team competed in seven elements of the competition; aircraft recognition, a command task, drill, first aid, a fitness test, RAF knowledge and DCCT shooting.

In a closely fought competition, Wilson’s School earned second place, with last year’s winner Kimbolton School placing third overall. The awards were presented by Brigadier Matthew Lowe MBE, Deputy Commander Cadets, who praised the hard work and resilience shown by all the teams. Officer Commanding Dulwich College’s CCF( RAF), Pilot Officer James Rosslyn-Smith, said: “The secret to Dulwich’s success was a combination of extremely hard work and having the country’s best SSI (and former Guardsman) in Cadet Sergeant Scott Swalwell. Though this year’s team contained excellent individuals and possessed outstanding leadership in Cadet Warrant Officer Ben Schlossman, it was greater than the sum of its parts - the cadets simply gelled well and supported and worked for each other throughout.

“Winning the drill was a real highlight. The team put in well over 15 hours of practice since January, under the expert eye of SSI Swalwell. The drill inspector at the Finals was quoted as saying Dulwich were ‘mythical legends’ and that the shoes were the best he had ever seen on cadets.”

CWO Schlossman added: “The team has worked incredibly hard and we are very proud. We last won the competition three years ago, and it’s felt like a long three years! We’ve given up a lot of our free time to practice, and we’re pleased it’s paid off. We are also incredibly grateful for the energy, commitment and effort the staff put in to helping us.”

Honour for Swansea Squadron

Cadets and staff from 215 (City of Swansea) Squadron have been granted the Honorary Freedom of the City and County of Swansea in a special ceremony at the city’s Guildhall.

The squadron, which is celebrating its 75th anniversary this year, is one of the six largest squadrons in the UK and has been awarded Lees Trophy, which is presented to the best Air Training Corps squadron in Britain, four times.

The honour is also in recognition of its community and voluntary work in support of the Swansea Branch of the Royal British Legion in organising Remembrance events and the annual poppy appeal for Swansea as well as fundraising for several other local and national charities.

Councillor John Newbury, Lord Mayor of Swansea, said: “We are immensely proud and grateful of the Mayor of Swansea, said: “We are incredibly grateful of the Mayor of Swansea, said: “We are immensely proud and grateful of the Mayor of Swansea, said: “We are immensely proud and grateful of the Mayor of Swansea, said: “We are immensely proud and grateful of the Mayor of Swansea, said: “We are immensely proud and grateful of the Mayor of Swansea, said: “We are immensely proud and grateful of the Mayor of Swansea, said: “We are immensely proud and grateful of the Mayor of Swansea, said: “We are immensely proud and grateful of the Mayor of Swansea, said: “We are immensely proud and grateful of the Mayor of Swansea, said: “We are immensely proud and grateful of the Mayor of Swansea, said: “We are immensely proud and grateful of the Mayor of Swansea, said: “We are immensely proud and grateful of the Mayor of Swansea, said: “We are immensely proud and grateful of the Mayor of Swansea, said: “We are immensely proud and grateful of the Mayor of Swansea, said: “We are immensely proud and grateful of the Mayor of Swansea, said: “We are immensely proud and grateful of the Mayor of Swansea, said: “We are immensely proud and grateful of the Mayor of Swansea, said: “We are immensely proud and grateful of the Mayor of Swansea, said: “We are immensely proud and grateful of the Mayor of Swansea, said: “We are immensely proud and grateful of the Mayor of Swansea, said: “We are immensely proud and grateful of the Mayor of Swansea, said: “We are immensely proud and grateful of the Mayor of Swansea, said: “We are immensely proud and grateful of the Mayor of Swansea, said: “We are immensely proud and grateful of the Mayor of Swansea, said: “We are immensely proud and grateful of the Mayor of Swansea, said: “We are immensely proud and grateful of the Mayor of Swansea, said: “We are immensely proud and grateful of the Mayor of Swansea, said: “We are immensely proud and grateful of the Mayor of Swansea, said: “We are immensely proud and grateful of the Mayor of Swansea, said: “We are immensely proud and grateful of the Mayor of Swansea, said: “We are immensely proud and grateful of the Mayor of Swansea, said: “We are immensely proud and grateful of the Mayor of Swansea, said: “We are immensely proud and grateful of the Mayor of Swansea, said: “We are immensely proud and grateful of the Mayor of Swansea, said: “We are immensely proud and grateful of the Mayor of Swansea, said: “We are immensely proud and grateful of the Mayor of Swansea, said: “We are immensely proud and grateful of the Mayor of Swansea, said: “We are immensely proud and grateful of the Mayor of Swansea, said: “We are immensely proud and grateful of the Mayor of Swansea, said: “We are immensely proud and grateful of the Mayor of Swansea, said: “We are immensely proud and grateful of the Mayor of Swansea, said: “We are immensely proud and grateful of the Mayor of Swansea, said: “We are immensely proud and grateful of the Mayor of Swansea, said: “We are immensely proud and grateful of the Mayor of Swansea, said: “We are immensely proud and grateful of the Mayor of Swansea, said: “We are immensely proud and grateful of the Mayor of Swansea, said: “We are immensely proud and grateful of the Mayor of Swansea, said: “We are immensely proud and grateful of the Mayor of Swansea, said: “We are immensely proud and grateful of the Mayor of Swansea, said: “We are immensely proud and grateful of the Mayor of Swansea, said: “We are immensely proud and grateful of the Mayor of Swansea, said: “We are immensely proud and grateful of the Mayor of Swansea, said: “We are immensely proud and grateful of the Mayor of Swansea, said: “We are immensely proud and grateful of the Mayor of Swansea, said: “We are immensely proud and grateful of the Mayor of Swansea, said: “We are immensely proud and grateful of the Mayor of Swansea, said: “We are immensely proud and grateful of the Mayor of Swansea, said: “We are immensely proud and grateful of the Mayor of Swansea, said: “We are immensely proud and grateful of the Mayor of Swansea, said: “We are immensely proud and grateful of the Mayor of Swansea, said: “We are immensely proud and grateful of the Mayor of Swansea, said: “We are immensely proud and grateful of the Mayor of Swansea, said: “We are immensely proud and grateful of the Mayor of Swansea, said: “We are immensely proud and grateful of the Mayor of Swansea, said: “We are immensely proud and grateful of the Mayor of Swansea, said: “We are immensely proud and thankful I am that they took control of the situation in a most professional manner.”

To the rescue

An adventure training weekend turned into a rescue mission for adult volunteers as they used sheer strength and determination to save a stranded motor home.

The team from Norfolk & Suffolk Wing arrived at the Goyt Valley car park in the heart of the Peak District and found the AA trying to pull out a large motorhome bogged down in the mud.

Realising the vehicle was not going anywhere, the team decided to take matters into their own hands and, led by Wing Commander David Miller, worked together to free the motorhome in a matter of minutes.

“Winning the drill was a real highlight. The team put in well over 15 hours of practice since January, under the expert eye of SSI Swalwell. The drill inspector at the Finals was quoted as saying Dulwich were ‘mythical legends’ and that the shoes were the best he had ever seen on cadets.”

CWO Schlossman added: “The team has worked incredibly hard and we are very proud. We last won the competition three years ago, and it’s felt like a long three years! We’ve given up a lot of our free time to practice, and we’re pleased it’s paid off. We are also incredibly grateful for the energy, commitment and effort the staff put in to helping us.”
Kriegie Trophy
Some 100 air cadets from 13 units across Bristol and Gloucestershire Wing recently took part in a major adventure training exercise.

The Dursley Challenge covers a six-mile route through the Cotswold Hills and includes a series of initiative exercises. Eleven cadet teams competed for the Wing’s Kriegie Trophy which was won by 2124 (Bristol Airport) Squadron. Runners-up were 2392 (Thornbury) Sqn with 649 (Dursley) Sqn in third place.

High Flier
Cadet Warrant Officer Connor Williams ended his six year cadet career on a high - in a Hawk T2 from RAF Valley.

Connor from 275 (Nantyglo and Blaina) Squadron was rewarded with the 40-minute flight in recognition of his many achievements and commitment to the Corps. Connor celebrates his 20th birthday in June and plans on staying at the squadron as a civilian instructor.
AOC 1 Group Inspects Cadets
Cadets from 2248 (Rutland) Squadron held their annual presentation evening recently when the Inspecting Officer was Squadron President, Air Vice Marshal Gary Waterfall, AOC 1 Group.

Following a presentation to parents and guests, AVM Waterfall went on to hand out a number of awards, including the Rob Toy Cup for Best NCO to Cadet Sergeant William Astill and the Best Cadet Award to Cadet Corporal Amelia Seymour.

Afterwards, AVM Waterfall thanked the squadron staff, the cadets and their parents and then surprised his audience by inviting the cadets to RAF Scampton as his guests to meet the Red Arrows and watch one of their practice displays.

Ready, Steady, Cook!
Budding cadet chefs from 1279 (Melton Mowbray) Squadron took part in an inter-flight ‘Ready, Steady, Cook’ challenge, hosted by professional chef, Tim Deacon.

Competing to win the title of ‘Masterchefs’, the cadets were given a list of ingredients from which they could only choose a limited selection and then had just half an hour to prepare a dish.

Chef Tim Deacon added: “It was very impressive to see what the cadets achieved under such difficult conditions – I would have struggled. They should all be very proud of themselves.”

Heartstart Success
Air cadets from 195 (Grimsby) Squadron have been presented with their Heartstart certificates, making the successful completion of their first aid training.

The 14 cadets each completed a two-week course on basic First Aid and CPR. Flight Lieutenant Terence Shird, Commanding Officer of 195 Squadron, said: “I’m very proud of the cadets’ achievements.”

Cross Channel Challenge
Two teams of intrepid cadets and staff will be battling tides, jellyfish and ships on a relay swim of the English Channel this summer.

In one of the most demanding challenges the ATC has set itself to mark the Corps’ 75th Anniversary, two teams of eight swimmers will form a relay team to swim across the 21 miles of the English Channel.

The swimmers, who have been training hard throughout the winter building endurance and stamina as well as getting used to the motion of the sea, will set off from Folkestone in early July, depending on the weather and tidal conditions.

The crossing will see the teams swimming only in costumes as wetsuits are not allowed under the rules. And even though the swimmers will be making their bid in the warmer summer months, water temperatures will still only be roughly 61°F/16°C or less. Each swimmer is in the water for an hour at a time with the whole swim set to take upwards of 12 hours.

It will be adjudicated by an observer from the Channel Swimming Association to ensure that all the rules are followed for the swim to be officially recognised.

Swimmers will be seeking sponsorship, to find out more log on to www.raf.mod.uk/aircadets

Cadets praised at POW Event
Three air cadets from London Wing have attended the First Gulf War Prisoners Of War 25th Anniversary Reunion Dinner held at the RAF Club in London.

Cadet Warrant Officer Entisar Jama and Cadet Flight Sergeant George Serbuka, both of 56 (Woolwich) Squadron, volunteered to be hosts and greeters, as well as CWO Sarah Owens, 1921 (Lewisham) Squadron, who also played the fanfare before dinner.

Afterwards, the cadets were invited to join the dinner and had the opportunity to talk to the many veterans, prisoners of war and other guests, including former Prime Minister, Sir John Major, and the Defence Secretary Michael Fallon (pictured below).

John Nichol, who was shot down in a Tornado GR1 with his pilot John Peters whilst attacking a target in Southern Iraq in 1991, organised the reunion dinner for 110 people including POWs, World War Two veterans, friends, family and former RAF colleagues.

John said: “All three Air Cadets were a credit to the ATC. They were immaculately turned out, perfectly organised, ready and willing to perform all their duties with courtesy, precision and expertise.

“They were adaptable to the ever-changing requirements of the evening and a total delight to work with. Everyone I spoke to commented on how courteous, professional and interesting the cadets were.”

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After the success of our first ever Cyber Camp last year, the course returns again this August.

The camp will follow a similar syllabus to the previous course, with successful applicants learning about online security, how to protect critical networks and systems against cyber attacks and malicious technology, teaching the history of cyber warfare and demonstrating how easy it can be to access digital information and exploit it. Applications are now invited from suitably qualified Silver Communications Badge holders for this year’s Cyber Camps at 1 Radio School, RAF Cosford. Two sets of one week courses are planned during the period 6th – 13th and 13th – 20th August. The Radio School is also looking for two staff each week as supervisors for the cadets but also to undertake the course.

Both cadet and staff application forms are available on BADER and completed forms should be returned to cybercomms@aircadets.org by Friday 6th May 2016. Further details of the course and structure can also be requested from the same email address.

Cyber Camp is Back!

Chilly Challenge

Air Cadets from Trent Wing are always keen to support the Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund (RAFBF) even when it means taking on their Frostbite Challenge!

Just a few weeks ago cadets from Grantham, Boston, Warsop, Brigg, Scunthorpe and Coningsby Squadrons joined forces to support the RAFBF Airfield Anarchy Frostbite event at the Newark Showground. More than 500 people tackled the mud run, a physically and mentally challenging race around the former airfield, clambering over obstacles, wading through water and completing physical tasks. Although it was not quite frostbite conditions, the bitter cold and wind tested the competitors to the max. The cadets rose to the challenge too, doing a sterling job marshalling the course, manning water stations, and most importantly congratulating the finishers by handing out medals and thermal blankets.

DREAM TAKES FLIGHT ...

A North Tyneside-based squadron is now the proud owner of a new flight simulator shell, thanks to help from a local business.

1151 (Wallsend) Squadron approached the company Kier North Tyneside last year in the hope of turning a series of scale drawings into reality. Constructed completely from wood, the simulator shell will house a computer programme that will allow cadets to experience a flight and the instruments in operation during it, and show them in real time how an aircraft can be controlled from take-off to landing.

Kier regional director, Mike Furse, said: "1151 (Wallsend) Squadron is a valuable community group for young people in North Tyneside and we are delighted to have been able to turn their plans into a working reality.

"I would also like to personally thank all colleagues involved in the production of the simulator shell, particularly joiner Bob Hepburn, as without his considerable skill and craftsmanship this would not have been possible."

A spokesman for the squadron said: "The flight simulator shell provided by Kier North Tyneside will allow us to train the cadets in so many different aspects of aviation and thus equip them more fully to make the best use of their air experience flying training."
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### Gloves & Socks

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Nationwide celebrations for ATC Sunday

Across the United Kingdom, cadets and volunteers have celebrated the RAF Air Cadets’ 75th Anniversary.
Some regions paraded up to 1,000 cadets and volunteers to mark the anniversary in style which was celebrated with a special service held at St Clement Danes Church in the Strand, London where HRH The Duchess of Cambridge attended her first event as Honorary Air Commandant of the Air Cadets.

The Duchess met more than 350 cadets, which included representatives from all six regions of the Air Training Corps (ATC) and some cadets from the Combined Cadet Force (RAF), plus Commandant Air Cadets and Honorary Group Captain Carol Vorderman (see the feature on page 4).

Glasgow
In Glasgow, 335 cadets and staff from West Scotland Wing attended a service at picturesque Glasgow Cathedral with special guests including six Lord Lieutenants and Air Vice Marshal Ross Paterson, who is currently the RAF’s lead representative in Scotland.

The guest of honour was former cadet Mr Geoffrey Payne, who was a member of 480 (Studely) Squadron in 1941, the year the ATC was formed. The squadron still exists today.

Cornwall
At the other end of the country in Plymouth and Cornwall Wing, cadets and staff tucked into Cornish pasties after a service at Falmouth and marvelled at a giant pasty decorated with the number 75 especially created for the event by Rowe’s Cornish Bakers.

The service at Falmouth’s Church of King Charles the Martyr was attended by 350 cadets and staff as well as special guests Group Captain Mike Trace, Deputy Lieutenant of Cornwall, and former Plymouth cadet Air Commodore Gary Tunnicliffe, the Ministry of Defence’s Head of Remuneration.

The bakery revealed its own important link to 1941. The company’s founder, Bill Rowe, joined the RAF in late 1941 and trained as a wireless operator, seeing service on Bristol Blenheims and Avro Ansons before being posted to 301 FTU (Ferry transport unit from where he delivered numerous aircraft for use by Coastal Command in the Mediterranean.

Bill left the RAF in 1948 and moved into his next venture, creating Rowe’s Bakery which now has bakeries thriving throughout the South West.

Blackpool
The Blackpool sea front was decorated with even more blue tones than usual as 800 staff and cadets from throughout the Cumbria and Lancashire Wing ATC paraded before attending a service in the Sacred Heart Church. The RAF Ensign was even flown from the Blackpool Borough Council building to show support for the anniversary.

Ely
A 750-strong parade by Bedfordshire and Cambridgeshire Wing was an extra special occasion as their new banner was revealed for the first time in Ely Cathedral.

During the service, attended by two former Commandant Air Cadets, Air Commodores Jon Ford and Jon Chitty, excerpts from the memories of Peter Price, a former cadet who lived in the South of England during the Battle of Britain, were read by Padre Roger Cresswell to give today’s cadets a feel for how the ATC has developed during its 75 years.

Cadet Warrant Officer Morgan of 1003 (Leighton Buzzard) Sqn said: “Today has been a massive highlight in my career as a cadet. Accompanying the High Sheriff of Bedfordshire and seeing the new Wing banner with so many cadets was fantastic.”

Her Majesty’s Lord-Lieutenant for Bedfordshire and Cambridgeshire, Helen Nellis, who chatted to cadets at the reception afterwards, said: “Today has been a massive highlight in my career as a cadet. Accompanying the High Sheriff of Bedfordshire and seeing the new Wing banner with so many cadets was fantastic.”
Shepton Mallet
Flight Lieutenant Adam Scott and Cadet Ben Cox of 1182 (Shepton Mallet) Sqn accepted a number of donated trees provided by a local garden centre.

The trees will be planted during civic ceremonies and events throughout both Devon and Somerset during the anniversary year. A special commemorative parade is being held in Taunton on Saturday, June 11th.

South Yorkshire
In perhaps the biggest parade of the day, 1,000 volunteers and cadets from South and West Yorkshire, led by the band of 148 (Barnsley) Sqn, took to the centre of Doncaster, marching past the Mansion House where a salute was taken by the former Commandant Air Cadets, Air Commodore Ian Stewart before continuing to Doncaster Minster for a service.

Wing Commander Brian Daniel, Officer Commanding South & West Yorkshire Wing, said: “Celebrating the 75th anniversary of the ATC is a special occasion for us. “The Air Cadet Organisation offers an enormous range of opportunities to young people in our region and while times may have changed over the last seven decades, we remain committed to providing training for young people across the region.”

Coventry
Historic Coventry Cathedral was the setting for a special service attended by Warwickshire & Birmingham Wing cadets and staff.

The Peace Bell rang out to herald the start of the procession of squadron Banners, as each was marched from the Queen’s Steps into the Cathedral.

The colourful procession included the banners of 1459 (Heart of England) and 2504 (Archbishop Grimshaw) Sqns which were being paraded for the final time before the two units merge to become 2371 Squadron.

Newark
Cadets and staff from 1260 (Newark) Squadron held a formal Dining-In Night to mark not only the ATC’s anniversary but also the unit’s 75th anniversary.

The event was held at Kelham Hall where guests, including Sir John Peace, the Lord Lieutenant of Nottinghamshire, were treated after each course to short speeches relating the history of the ATC.

The event also marked the culmination of a two-year ‘Heritage Project’ to research and detail the squadron’s history which has now been documented in both a printed book and a DVD.

East Belfast
To celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Corps, 1137 (East Belfast) Squadron started the unusual project of collecting squadron number badges. Spotting idea on the squadron’s Facebook page, Commandant Air Cadets, Air Commodore Dawn McCafferty posted a message saying that if they collected a badge from every squadron in the organisation she would donate her rank slides. Flight Lieutenant Andrea Steed, OC 1137 Squadron, said: “To date 480 badges have already been received for our 75th anniversary project.

“I have been totally overwhelmed by the support shown by everyone. We at 1137 have been excited to open all the envelopes, which have included cards, photos, messages and even invitations.”

The squadron plan to create a “75” out from all the squadron numbers in the Corps, and eager cadets have already started planning the layout.

Turriff
Ninety-year-old Flight Lieutenant Danny Pepper, former adjutant at 1296 (Turriiff) Sqn, and Flight Lieutenant Alan Campbell, a former squadron boss, were two of the special guests at a reunion party to celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the ATC.

As well as displaying lots of squadron memorabilia, including the old sectional doors from the squadron’s previous parade hall, the evening allowed cadets past and present to share some treasured memories.
NATIONWIDE CELEBRATIONS FOR ATC SUNDAY

Warwick
As well as holding a parade and a chapel service to celebrate the 75th anniversary, cadets and staff from 1368 (Warwick & Royal Leamington Spa) Sqn went one step further and put their culinary skills to the test in a fiercely contested baking competition.

Judged by three special guests: Flt Lt Roger Smith, Warwickshire & Birmingham Wing Staff Officer; Sqn Ldr (retd) Pablo Mason, Warwickshire and Birmingham Wing Civilian Committee Chairman and Mrs Alicia Mason an experienced baker and owner of a local hotel, the competition was won by Cadet Samantha Meddons’ coffee cake with a special note for the 75 sausage rolls made by Cadet Corporal Tarquin McArthur.

Norfolk
Cadets and staff from the 29 squadrons based in Norfolk and Suffolk recently gathered at five parades across the two counties to mark the 75th anniversary. Hundreds of people turned out to watch the services which were held in Lowestoft, Swaffham, North Walsham, Bury St Edmunds and Felixstowe.

Thames Valley
More than 50 cadets and staff from 2121 (Abingdon) Sqn, led by the band of 2507 (Bicester) Sqn, paraded from Thames Valley Wing HQ to Shippon Church as streets were lined by members of the public as well as several local dignitaries.

Further west, Thames Valley Wing cadets and staff from 2120 (Witney), 1315 (Kidlington) and 1861 (Wantage) Sqns held a special service at St. Mary’s Church in Witney during which 2120 Sqn’s new banner was blessed.

Members of the Wing Adventure Training community from 211 (Newbury), 2267 (Brize Norton) and 2210 (Cowley) Sqns marked the occasion in the wild conditions of Llanbedr in North Wales and, despite the rain and wind, everyone was in high spirits to mark the occasion.

Rushden
The sound of drums accompanied the celebrations in Rushden as more than 50 cadets and staff from 858 (Rushden) and 378 (Mannock) Sqns paraded through the town before a special service at the Mission Church.

Flying Officer Philip Warr, Officer Commanding 378 (Mannock) Squadron, that also celebrates its 75th anniversary this year, said: “For the last 75 years the RAF Air Cadets has worked with and supported many young people. We are incredibly proud of our history.”

Coalville
Also celebrating its 75th anniversary is 1188 (Coalville) Sqn who hosted a party for current and former members of the squadron. There were cadets or staff there from every decade since the squadron started, including a founder cadet Mr Raymond Walker, who was one of the first 80 cadets to join the squadron in the summer of 1941.

Squadron boss, Flt Lt Rebekah Harrison-Page, who had dressed in vintage 1940s’ uniform for occasion, said: “The civilian committee, staff and cadets have worked hard to prepare for this evening and it has been a huge success. It has been a chance for former members of the squadron to reminisce as the current cadets celebrate their achievements of this last year.”

St Albans
Among the guests at a special dinner, hosted by 220 (St Albans) Sqn, were two of the first cadets to join the squadron when it launched in 1941.

Peter Woodard and Bob Lowe, who is the Squadron’s Honorary President, joined cadets and staff at the special Dining-In Night. Officer Commanding, 220 (St Albans) Sqn, Flt Lt Ben Wilkinson, said: “This recognition of our 75 years in the city was an opportunity to reflect on all we have achieved over that time and the thousands of young St Albans people who have gained so much from their membership. We were delighted that two of our founding cadets were able to share the occasion with us.”

www.raf.mod.uk/aircadets
New Squadron takes Flight

After a huge cadet enrolment last year, 1053DF makes the 75th anniversary of the Air Training Corps even more special by standing up as 558 (Finningley) Squadron.

The detached flight was formed just over a year ago and thanks to hard work and dedication from the adult volunteers it now has more than 100 members, making it large enough to stand up and achieve full squadron status.

The event was marked with a formal squadron dinner and presentation, held in Hanger Three of Robin Hood Airport, the home of the last flying Vulcan bomber – XH558, the Spirit of Great Britain.

Since opening as a detached flight, the squadron has worked closely with the Vulcan to the Skies Trust and Robin Hood Airport, building up a fantastic relationship, so when it came time to select a new number for the squadron, there was one obvious choice and, as luck would have it, 558 was available.

The Civic Mayor and the Deputy Lord Lieutenant for South Yorkshire joined the celebration, as did Robin Hood Airport Operations Manager Tony Lonsdale and Martin Withers DFC, the last Vulcan display pilot.

Also attending the dinner was former Commandant Air Cadets, Air Commodore Ian Stewart CBE, who said: “It has been a great occasion to see the birth of 558 (Finningley) Squadron and to have the setting as we have this evening, dining under the wings of Vulcan XH558.”

The Officer Commanding the new Squadron, Flight Lieutenant John Dale said: “It was a great honour for me to officially stand the squadron up and become the first Officer Commanding of a new air cadet squadron on the exact 75th Anniversary of the creation of the Air Training Corps.

“We are very privileged to have taken the Squadron number 558 and share this with such an iconic aircraft as Vulcan XH558”

Cadet Corporal Ryan Calder added: “I’m so proud to be a cadet and especially at 558 Squadron. It’s been an amazing evening and one I’m not likely to ever forget.”

The timing of the Squadron Stand-up was also very fortunate as it coincided with the 75th anniversary of the Air Training Corps, itself formed on the 5th February 1941.

VULCAN ILLUSTRATION: Steve J Davies, AMC

Cadets clean for the Queen!

More than 60 cadets from 126 (City of Derby) Squadron visited Elvaston Castle Country Park as part of an organised litter-picking activity.

Clean for the Queen is an event that has been organised in the run up to Her Majesty The Queen’s 90th birthday to inspire a million people across the country to take action and enjoy a few hours together litter-picking to make the places we live more beautiful.

In Derbyshire, the cadets helped clean up Elvaston Castle Country Park with the Lord-Lieutenant of Derbyshire formally starting the event.

Birthday challenge

Cadets at 1331 (Stowmarket) Squadron have been set an unusual task by their Commanding Officer Flight Lieutenant Paula Houghton.

To commemorate the Corps 75th Anniversary, she has asked the cadets to come up with challenges they can do which must have something to do with the number 75. The aim is to raise £7,500 during the course of the year.

Tornado trail

A Tornado trail is just one of the events planned to celebrate RAF Marham’s centenary this year.

Following on from last year’s Spitfire Trail organised by Flight Lieutenant Pauline Petch from 42F (King’s Lynn) Squadron in collaboration with the local council, this year’s ‘arts trail’ of model Tornado aircraft will celebrate and commemorate Marham’s 100th anniversary.

The trail will feature more than a dozen model aircraft each displaying different information about the RAF base and will be ‘flying’ from June to September in King’s Lynn.
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*Subject to availability: Over 10% discount applies to Royal Air Force members only. Trips must be booked by Friday, 29th April 2016. Trips offer cannot be applied to existing bookings. Valid for new business only. Please contact us to receive a quote. Prices quoted are per person based plus VAT. Prices may vary depending on the age and date booked. Offer is not available at the Centre de Chamonix. This offer is available only between 1st February and 20th November 2016. Not applicable to national accounts. Please note that the sample programme is based on a two night break, subject to day visits or longer stays.
ACO bands are central to many of the events in the cadet calendar and never more so than in this the 75th anniversary year of the Air Training Corps.

And there’s never been a better time to be part of HQ Air Cadets Music Services (HQACMS). The ACO now has a Concert Band, a Marching Band, a Pipes and Drums band as well as several ensembles plus this year sees the launch of a choir.

"Involvement in music offers enormous opportunities for young people," said a spokesman for HQACMS. "It can be counted towards the Duke of Edinburgh’s Award, BTECs and NVQs; it improves teamwork and self-confidence and, just as importantly, is a huge amount of fun."

Being part of cadet music also gives cadets the chance to participate in significant ceremonial events in the UK and overseas, which they will remember forever. This has included playing at Buckingham Palace, No 10 Downing Street, on the Main Stage and arena at the Royal International Air Tattoo, as well as providing the music for the prestigious Gala Dinner at RIAT. And, of course, more recently playing for the inaugural visit of HRH The Duchess of Cambridge.

The Marching Band has developed strong links with HM Royal Marines’ Band.

Don’t Stop The Music

Being part of cadet music is a rewarding and challenging experience. It’s another great way to learn new skills and travel, making the most of the opportunities the RAF Air Cadets has to offer.
Service too. As well as providing some of their professional musicians as instructors, the Royal Marines invited the Cadet Band to a joint parade with them in Oxford; no mean achievement.

As you would expect Music Services also has a strong association with the RAF’s musicians. During the week-long camps at RAF Cranwell, members of The Band of the RAF College support the cadets by leading sectional practices as well as offering more general advice during full band rehearsals.

“A cadet’s view: An Honour and a Privilege

Trumpet player, Cadet Warrant Officer Emma Graves, 18, from the CCF (RAF) at Bournemouth School joined both the National Concert and Marching Bands last year.

“Attending my first Concert band camp was a daunting prospect as I didn’t know anyone and had no idea what to expect,” she said.

“I soon realised I had nothing to worry about and everyone was so welcoming. I enjoyed the week thoroughly and it was a great opportunity to work with different players and styles of music.

“As part of the brass ensemble we have been asked to provide music at a number of events, the most notable was in the Royal Courts of Justice on ATC Sunday as part of the 75th anniversary celebrations.

One of the stand out moments of my cadet career to date was playing the National Anthem for HRH the Duchess of Cambridge at this event and it never ceases to amaze me how many wonderful opportunities I have got that wouldn’t be possible without being part of the ACO music services. Emma has just attended her fourth ACO National Concert Band Camp at RAF Cranwell and says it was an amazing experience.

“The opportunities I have been offered are incredible and the challenges have shaped me as a musician and improved my playing so much.

“Also the friends I have made are some of the best and the music staff are so supportive and help to make the courses both fulfilling and enjoyable. I would really encourage anyone considering applying for any of the National Air Cadet Bands to do so as it will open up so many doors that you never even knew existed.

“For me personally, as I hope to join the Royal Marines Band Service, being part of the air cadets’ bands has prepared me so well for applying and for anyone thinking of a career in professional music it is such a great stepping stone.

“Even for those who don’t wish to take music further, the Air Cadet Music Services will offer amazing opportunities, brilliant music and unforgettable friends and memories.”
Get involved
If you play an instrument and wish to develop your music, please contact the Music Training Officer, Squadron Leader Ken Bell, letting him know your instrument(s) and Grade(s) on dom.training@aircadets.org and he will be in touch.

ACO Music Camps
Cadets must be aged at least 13 and under 20 at the start of the camps. There are additional requirements specific to each type of camp.

Concert Band candidates:
• At a minimum of Grade 5 or equivalent
• Able to read bass clef, if they play trombone, euphonium or tuba
• Good sight reading ability

Marching Band candidates:
• At a minimum of Grade 3 or equivalent
• Able to stand or march for long periods of time

Choir candidates:
• Must include a link or short recording of them singing with their application when they apply

What is guaranteed that cadets will always leave the camp knowing a lot more than when they arrived.

“The opportunities ... are incredible and the challenges have shaped me as a musician and improved my playing so much ...”

Find out more
Keep up to date with Air Cadets Music Services on its Facebook page or follow @aircadetsmusic on Twitter.
Raptor Flies In

One of the jewels in the crown of US military aviation will make a welcome return to the Royal International Air Tattoo in July to demonstrate some of the unique capabilities of the world’s first operational fifth generation fighter.

The display by the US Air Force’s Lockheed Martin F-22A ‘Raptor’ will be among the highlights of the airshow, which takes place at RAF Fairford on July 8-10. It was at the Air Tattoo six years ago that the Raptor last showed off its impressive agility in the UK.

Air Tattoo Chief Executive Andy Armstrong said: “This summer’s Air Tattoo will be looking to the future and few aircraft can equal the leading edge capabilities demonstrated by the F-22. The aircraft’s appearance at RAF Fairford highlights the outstanding relationship that exists between the Air Tattoo and the US Air Force.”
Seal of Approval

Making an expedition a success relies on many different elements, each working in harmony. One of the key elements is the crucial role of the DofE Expedition Supervisor, both in ensuring the safety of the participants whilst on an expedition and in maintaining the standards of the DofE. Wing Commander Helen Gerrish, Corps DofE Development Officer, introduces an important change that will continue to ensure a high quality experience for all cadets taking part in the Award.

Introducing the Expedition Supervisors Training Course

Total safety is a key element encompassing all activities in the ATC and none more so than in the supervision of DofE Expeditions*. In order to ensure the safety of cadets on these expeditions, ACT074 has been amended to reflect a change in the policy for supervising DofE expeditions.

This change means that completion of the DofE Expeditions Supervisors’ Training Course (ESTC) will become mandatory from 1 April 2016 for all staff wishing to supervise DofE expeditions. This does not apply to training cadets when they are accompanied.

* DofE expeditions in this article refers to final practice and qualifying expeditions where participants are unaccompanied for the majority of a final practice, and entirely on a qualifying expedition.

What does this mean?

From 1 April 2016, anyone who wishes to supervise DofE expeditions must attend an ESTC.

What if I have already done the ESTC as part of my BEL course?

If the BEL course has been approved to run the ESTC in place of Module 8 of the BEL, then you comply with the requirement. Where this is not the case, BEL Course Directors are being encouraged to make this adjustment to their courses.

What about the Lowland Leaders Award LLA?

Where the LLA is being run through the Corps, plans are in place to incorporate the ESTC into the course.

What if I have already done an ESTC with another organisation?

Provided you can show that this was consolidated with a practical exercise, then that will suffice. Otherwise some consolidation will be required.

I’ve been supervising expeditions for many years. Do I still have to do the course?

We recognise that there are many staff who have been supervising expeditions
for some time, and whilst this is acknowledged, there has to be assurance that they understand the principles of planning and carrying out remote supervision. An alternative approach has been designed for these people. See below for the process.

What is the process?

1. All new staff, either undergoing AT training or newly qualified and yet to supervise DofE expeditions.

   The ESTC is an approved DofE course that is run by registered Course Directors and Tutors. It is one and a half days duration, where day 1 is tutor led and covers the Expedition section in detail, and includes preparing a supervision plan. Day 2 is a practical exercise where the learning is consolidated and remote supervision is carried out.

   These courses are being run in all regions and advance notice of courses can be found on SharePoint under ACO document Library/Activities/Duke of Edinburgh/Modular Training Framework/Planned Courses.

2. Experienced staff who have been supervising DofE expeditions for some considerable time.

   Qualified AT staff who have already carried out remote supervision on DofE expeditions may continue to provide remote supervision until 31 October 2016. However, with effect from 1 November 2016, all qualified staff who have not already completed an ESTC will be required to do so or comply with the following alternative before 1 April 2018:

   • Provide evidence to their WATTO of having supervised at least 2 DofE expeditions in the three years leading up to 31 October 2016, and
   • Complete a DofE knowledge check followed by a half day course covering supervision planning with a practical exercise.

   Once the WATTO has verified the expeditions they should notify the staff member, in writing, of the date this check was carried out. The staff member can then enter the date on SMS under ‘ESTC – Temp’, then on completion of the half day course the SMS entry can be amended to ‘ESTC’.

When does this training have to be completed?

The deadline for attending either of the courses is April 2018.

By Wing Commander Helen Gerrish, Corps Duke of Edinburgh’s Award Development Officer
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Cadet Saluted for Life-Saving Actions

A cadet from 2522 (Bedlington) Squadron has been praised after he helped a woman who was knocked unconscious when she fell off her bike.

Gracia Travis had been cycling from her home to work when she fell off just yards after setting off. She suffered significant facial injuries, fractures to her arm and lost consciousness.

Cadet Brandon Smith, who was on his way to school, raced to the scene, putting into practice the First Aid skills he had learnt at his squadron. He remained with the injured cyclist for more than half an hour until an ambulance arrived.

Gracia’s partner, Albert Duffy, who managed to track down Brandon, said: “A neighbour told us how an air cadet had raced back to help Gracia.

“He carefully put her into the recovery position, made sure that her airways were clear and that she was as comfortable, and stayed with her until the ambulance came.

“He kept her mind active by talking to her and took such great care over her which could have possibly saved her life, for which we will all be eternally grateful.”

Gracia, who has little memory of the accident, was able to meet Brandon for the first time since the accident.

Mr Duffy said: “We were both pleased to be able to thank Brandon in person when he called around with his Commanding Officer. He was very pleased to see Gracia is on the mend and recovering well after her accident, which could have easily have turned to tragedy if it hadn’t been for Brandon’s swift actions.”

Brandon’s Commanding Officer, Flight Lieutenant Bill Booth, added: “I am very proud of Brandon. He put into practice his First Aid training to help possibly save someone’s life. He showed compassion and care ... he is a role model for all young people.”

Charity Challenge

Alice Davies, a civilian instructor with 2527 (Lawnswood) Squadron in Central & East Wing, is set to march 100km across Yorkshire to raise money for Blind Veterans UK.

Alice, 20, was looking for a new challenge after completing her Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award when she came across the national charity for vision-impaired ex-Service men and women.

The event, organised by the charity, in June is a huge endurance challenge – walking 100km through the day and night over the moors of Yorkshire and the Peak District.

Alice, who is a student nurse and has seen firsthand the impact of blindness, said: “I know it’s going to be hard to complete the 100k but it will be worth it as it’s for such a brilliant charity.”

New Cadet Centre

Work has just begun on a new £600,000 purpose-built cadet centre in Warwick.

It is to be built on land at the edge of the playing fields at Aylesford School and Sixth Form College, with a 20-year lease secured for the property. The building will be shared by 1368 (Warwick and Leamington) Squadron and the Warwick and West Midlands (South Sector) ACF Warwick detachment. Construction of the 250sqm building began last month and should be completed by early October. Colonel Tim Weeks, Chief Executive of West Midland RFCA, said: “I am delighted that this project is finally under way. It will provide the cadets with a long overdue, modern and fully equipped training centre which I hope will become a familiar landmark on Stratford Road.”
AIR CADET MAGAZINE  SPRING 2016

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  Sizes 3-6: £30.79
  Sizes 7-13: £36.95

- Patrol Boot
  Code AB38
  Sizes 3-6: £41.63
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- Magnum Classic
  Code AB34
  Sizes 3-6: £31.62
  Sizes 7-13: £39.95

- Delta Patrol Boot
  Code AB75
  Sizes 3-6: £41.93
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  £12.50

- 1000 Mile Ultimate Walking Sock
  Code UW03185
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  £10.50

- 1000 Mile Combat Sock
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SOCKS

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