Stations Open
Door To Air Cadets

Cadets Celebrate
75 Years

New Royal
Patron
ATC Welcomes the Duchess of Cambridge
## Welcome to AirCadet

### 75 AIR CADETS

Happy New Year to you all and welcome to the first edition of Air Cadet magazine for 2016 and what a year it’s going to be!

We are all looking forward to the 75th anniversary and the unbelievable range of high profile, exciting events that are planned to mark this amazing milestone – you can read all about them on page five of this issue.

And if that wasn’t enough, there’s also the incredibly exciting news of a new Royal patron for the Organisation. We warmly welcome HRH The Duchess of Cambridge and look forward to everything that she will bring to the organisation.

Elsewhere in the magazine, we drop in on the cadets who became Aerospace Battle Managers for the day, travel to North Africa to hear about a life-changing expedition and sample life on the ocean wave with cadets on board the tall ship TS Royalist.

It’s going to be a great year for the Air Cadets, so to echo the words of the Commandant, let’s go for it! Happy reading.

### Whatever you want ... just go for it, find a way round the obstacles and keep going after your goal.

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### From The Top

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### Golden Moments Cadets in the Atlas Mountains

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Duke of Edinburgh for his outstanding commitment to the Air Training Corps over the decades.

“He is admired and respected by cadets and volunteers alike and we will miss his ready sense of humour and genuine interest in the development of the nation’s youth.”

To welcome her to her new role as Honorary Air Commandant of the Air Cadets, The Duchess was presented with a copy of Horizons, the history of the Air Cadets, which sets out the proud history and traditions of the organisation she will represent.

Thrilled

The Duchess of Cambridge has a close affiliation to the RAF following her husband’s service with the Search and Rescue Force. The Duchess assumes her new role on the eve of the Air Training Corps’ 75th anniversary which will see cadets celebrate throughout 2016.

Air Commodore McCafferty said:

“We are absolutely thrilled that HRH The Duchess of Cambridge has agreed to be our Patron. Her links to the RAF Family are already well established and her desire to support youth development is well recognised around the world.

“We hope that by acting as our Hon Air Commandant she can see at first hand the amazing work of our adult volunteers who deliver a truly world-class cadet experience to many thousands of young people.”

Cadet Sergeant Tommy Dade, 18, of 222 (Broadland) Squadron and Cadet Sergeant Bronwyn Jacobs, 18, of 863 (Thurston) Squadron were the two lucky cadets selected to attend the royal event. Chosen for their sporting prowess, both cadets were selected as the top male and female sports cadets of the year. Tommy is on the England Futsal Football Squad and has a scholarship with Norwich City Football Club. Bronwyn is the ATC’s female 1500m winner and also English Schools’ cross country champion.

Awesome

Tommy said: “It is sad to see HRH The Duke of Edinburgh retire from the role but he has supported us for over 60 years and we couldn’t ask for more. Having a new Royal patron particularly someone as approachable and friendly as the Duchess is awesome. My fellow cadets will be so jealous that I met our new patron today and I hope many more cadets and staff get to meet her over the coming years. “She will definitely raise our profile and, hopefully, help us recruit more volunteers so more young people get to experience cadet life. It is so much fun and I recommend it to any young person.”

Bronwyn said: “I feel privileged to be here to mark the end of an era with HRH The Duke of Edinburgh and I am sure all cadets and staff join me in wishing him the very best for the future.

“We are very excited to welcome the Duchess as our new patron and I am sure she will do an excellent job in raising the profile of the Air Cadets especially during our 75th year and beyond.”

“New Royal Patron

His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh has passed his patronage of the Air Cadets to HRH The Duchess of Cambridge.

During an audience at Buckingham Palace, The Duke relinquished his role as Honorary Air Commodore-in-Chief, bringing to an end his 63-year association with the Air Training Corps.

It is the Duchess’s first military linked appointment and she will represent an organisation of 42,000 air cadets aged 12-19 and 15,000 adult volunteers at more than 1,200 units across the UK and abroad.

HRH the Duke of Edinburgh took up his appointment following the death of founding patron King George VI, and maintained his royal patronage for several decades, frequently visiting cadets and showing a keen interest in their activities. The Duke of Edinburgh’s Award Scheme was readily incorporated into the air cadet syllabus and for many years the ATC has been the largest awarding body of the Scheme, with hundreds of cadets and junior volunteers achieving the coveted gold award every year. To mark the Duke of Edinburgh’s enduring commitment to the Air Training Corps he was presented with an engraved crystal vase bearing the 75th anniversary logo.

Grateful

Air Commodore McCafferty said: “We will be forever grateful to HRH The Duke of Edinburgh for his outstanding commitment to the Air Training Corps over the decades …”
Go for it ...

It’s time to look back on yet another incredible year of cadet achievement and look forward to 2016, the ATC 75th anniversary ...

From my vantage point as Commandant, I am blessed to witness cadet success at the highest levels, visiting the top squadrons competing in the Lees Trophy, meeting the top CCF Sections competing in the Air Squadron Trophy, and selecting cadets for the Dacre Sword and Brooch. As the light blue footprint of the RAF cadets and staff have once again done our parent Service proud and I have received countless accolades regarding the smartness, politeness and discipline of our people. Well done and thank you.

This year, we have seen some exciting new initiatives, such as the RAF Early Engagement STEM courses, which several hundred air cadets have enjoyed.

We have seen the introduction of cyber training as part of the commo syllabus, we have trialled an aerospace camp, and we have seen the biggest ever drill and ceremonial camp, culminating in a parade that was jaw-droppingly good. All this activity bodes extremely well for the 75th anniversary, which will hopefully see every member of the ACO get involved in one way or another.

By now, you should be aware of the extent of the planned events at national level, ranging from the sports challenge, and engineering and mathematics) camps and visits to airfields provide further scope for learning.

Strengths of the RAF Air Cadets, which also includes the Combined Cadet Force (RAF) today rests at about 60,000 including the adult volunteers who are the very best cadets compete for honours.

Boys formed the ATC and were a prime source of recruits for the RAF with aviation and engineering subjects forming the core of the syllabus. The ATC allowed girls to join from the 1980s and ceased recruiting for the RAF decades ago but focuses on creating good citizens. It has an extensive syllabus. We have seen the introduction of cyber training as part of the commo syllabus.

Let’s go for it!

I know that cadets and staff have been out and about, raising tens of thousands of pounds for charities and supporting local communities.

The national youth organisation sponsored by the Royal Air Force marks its 75th anniversary on February 5th and there are a number of events planned throughout 2016 to celebrate.

The Duke of Edinburgh’s Award is another scheme at the heart of the cadet experience – the RAF Air Cadets is the largest enabling authority of the award in the world. Shooting and flying, aerospace and STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) camps and visits to airfields provide further scope for learning.

Strengths of the RAF Air Cadets, which also includes the Combined Cadet Force (RAF) today rests at about 60,000 including the adult volunteers who make it all happen. Several of the CCF (RAF) units are also celebrating their 75th anniversary this year.

Famous former cadets are testament to the quality of the organisation which is often described by other uniformed associations as the “crème de la crème”. They include scientists such as Nobel Prize winner Sir Paul Nurse, 007 actor Timothy Dalton, the late Sir Patrick Moore, astronomer and author; Will Whitehorn, president of Virgin Galactic and several sports personalities including Geoff Capes, Olympic shot-putter and John Conteh.

Established as the Air Training Corps (ATC) under royal warrant in 1941 the organisation grew during the war years to 200,000.

Boys formed the ATC and were a prime source of recruits for the RAF with aviation and engineering subjects forming the core of the syllabus. The ATC allowed girls to join from the 1980s and ceased recruiting for the RAF decades ago but focuses on creating good citizens. It has an extensive syllabus which teaches up to A level standard physics. Leadership, music, cyber, health and safety, radio communications, adventure training, seven sports including hockey, football and swimming also feature plus drill, marching bands, First Aid and an International Air Cadet Exchange programme, camps and overseas expeditions also keep cadets aged 12-19 busy.

The national youth organisation sponsored by the Royal Air Force marks its 75th anniversary on February 5th and there are a number of events planned throughout 2016 to celebrate.

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**RAF Air Cadets**

**Celebrate 75 years!**

**From the Top**

**Go for it ...**

**It’s time to look back on yet another incredible year of cadet achievement and look forward to 2016, the ATC 75th anniversary ...**

By Air Commodore Dawn McCafferty
Rebecca was a truly brave and inspirational young lady...

Cadet Corporal Rebecca Dalgleish, 18, of 132 (North Berwick) Squadron threw herself into fund raising despite being diagnosed as terminally ill.

She passed away quietly and her funeral was held on December 12th. Diagnosed with terminal cancer in late 2014, Air Cadet Rebecca was an inspiration to all who met her and undoubtedly touched the lives of many. Determined to help others, Rebecca embarked on a fund raising campaign which would benefit her favourite charity the Children’s Hospice Association Scotland (CHAS).

Rebecca wrote on her Just Giving page: “My name is Rebecca. I am 17 and have cancer. Unfortunately, I’ve recently been told my case is terminal. Although this news isn’t the best, it has encouraged me to raise money for Children’s Hospice Association Scotland who have done lots for me in the past so therefore wanted to return the favour by doing some fundraising for them.”

Rebecca set out, initially, to raise £5k for Children’s Hospice Association Scotland but after a publicity campaign in the local and Scottish national media and on the RAF Air Cadet website and magazine the fund grew to £62k.

Almost 750 donations were made by individuals and organisations touched by Rebecca’s bravery and spirit. Awarded a “Special Cadet of the Week” certificate by British Forces Broadcasting Service, Rebecca also appeared on Forces TV to further her cause.

The Regional Commandant of the Air Cadets in Scotland & Northern Ireland, Group Captain James Leggat said: “We were deeply saddened to hear of the passing of Rebecca. Rebecca was an active member of 132 (North Berwick) Squadron since joining the Air Cadets in February 2011. She was an inspiration to all who met her and undoubtedly touched the lives of many.

“Clearly she was very determined to help others when she embarked on her fund raising campaign for her favourite charity the Children’s Hospice Association Scotland. Last year I met Rebecca when she visited Tayside Aviation and was deservedly awarded The Commandant Air Cadets Commendation for her inspiration and spirit in the face of adversity.”

At the Tayside Aviation event, Honorary Group Captain Carol Vorderman flew in especially to meet Rebecca and present the award. Rebecca was also awarded a special “Above & Beyond” Certificate which was for her efforts by British Forces Broadcasting Service.

Gp Capt Leggat said: “Rebecca was a truly brave and inspirational young lady who demonstrated all the core values of the RAF Air Cadets. She will be greatly missed by all.”
Q. Can you describe your current role to us? A. I fulfil a number of overlapping roles at Odiham. Firstly, I am of course Station Commander, which brings with it responsibilities to ensure the good running of the station and for engagement with those in the communities in which we operate. Within the unit, this means I have powers afforded to discipline personnel, including fining them pay or applying restrictions to them. Thankfully, this is a side of the job that I very rarely need to use, as we are very much a single team pulling together to achieve an important task. In addition to this, my other role is as the United Kingdom Chinook Force Commander, though I do also have some Army helicopters under command. The Force Commander role brings with it formal responsibilities for safety and, working with our Headquaters in the Joint Helicopter Command, we decide how to train and employ our helicopters, and play a large part in the future development of them.

Q. That sounds a tough role! A. Far from it, though it is a common mistake that people make! The role is demanding, yes, but it is huge fun. RAF Odiham has around 2,000 Service and civilian personnel, all of whom are highly trained for their specific roles. With their collective skills, experience and enthusiasm, we can get through pretty much any problem - that’s probably why the Station’s motto is ‘Promise and Fulfil’.

Q. You mentioned Air Experience Flying (AEF) - I understand you are one of the Tutor AEF pilots. A. There are quite a few of us from Odiham that are volunteer pilots with the AEF, at both Boscombe Down and at Benson, where I fly from.

The first time I flew in anything was as an Air Cadet and I remember how much fun it was - there is nothing like telling your mates at school that you were doing aerobatics at the weekend.
So my flying now - as well as being fun for me - is an opportunity to return the favour. I’ve flown over 600 cadets so far, mainly on the Tutor but also a long time ago on the Chipmunk. I won’t count the Chinook sorties – it feels like cheating when you can carry 24 at a time!

Q. Turning to your time as a cadet, what were the highlights? A. Now you’ve got me - there is so much to choose from! There were so many good points in so many different ways. I think the main thing is that I made some great friends - many of whom I’m still in touch with - and it gave me a great focus at a time when I wasn’t sure what I wanted to do.
Looking back, the flying was obviously amazing and I was fortunate to get a flying scholarship, but the camps and the challenges were just as much fun. I will always remember a week in the Lake District walking and undertaking all sorts of adventure training. We were a little cheeky back in those days, and the staff at first threatened to get us up extra early as a punishment, but we managed to persuade them I was an insomniac; that didn’t need sleep so they didn’t bother!
In truth I think they needed the rest each night at much as we did! Looking back makes you really appreciate how good the adult volunteers are, giving up so much of their own time when they often are very busy with families or work outside of the cadet organisations.

Q. How much do you think the RAF Air Cadets helped you enter the RAF? A. Now you’ve got me - there is so much any problem - that’s probably why the Station’s motto is ‘Promise and Fulfil’.

Q. Is there any advice you would give today’s generation of cadets? A. I’ve met a lot over the years, particularly as an AEF pilot and Station Commander, and what strikes me is just how good role models they are for their generation.
So I would advise them to keep what they are doing - they represent the finest of society - and to make the most of the air cadets or other cadet organisations as they can.
We are lucky to have them and it is a pleasure to see them doing so well. If there is one thing to encapsulate the cadets experience it is GO FOR IT.
Whatever you want either in the cadets or your chosen career, just go for it, find a way round the obstacles and keep going after your goal.

A. Absolutely! We are undoubtedly busy, but we obviously recognise what a fantastic organisation the RAF Air Cadets is.
Many of us are former cadets and welcome the opportunity to give something back, whether it is hosting visits, camps or by supporting special events.

Q. Can you give us some examples of the support you have provided? A. The most obvious element is the camps and recently we were fortunate to host cadets from Scotland, Wales and across England - including from Durham and Northumberland (my old Wing).
We are short of space, so it was tented accommodation, but there are plenty of activities to do on camp and in our area. I’m fairly sure we flew all the cadets on summer camp on a Chinook training sortie, plus many also flew with our nearest Air Experience Flight at Boscombe Down.
In addition, we hosted a Hampshire and Isle of Wight ‘Wing Muster’ in 2014, where we hosted close on 800 cadets and staff on Station in a single day.
Our aim was to try and provide a weekly camp in a day, so we had many sections for the cadets to visit (we brought them together in one hangar) and we flew all of the cadets. Supporting our local wing in this way was important to us as they live in communities that tolerate a lot of our noise, and many of the cadets that attended also support our own events, such as our Families Day.

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Whatever you want either in the cadets or your chosen career, just go for it, find a way round the obstacles and keep going after your goal.
An Air Cadet from Lowestoft has won the Royal Air Force Charitable Trust’s Flying Excellence Trophy.

Cadet Warrant Officer Tom Willis, 19, from Carlton Colville near Lowestoft in Suffolk was presented with the prestigious trophy for demonstrating both outstanding flying ability and personal qualities.

Impressive

Tom received the impressive silver trophy at the prestigious Royal Air Force Charitable Trust report, the former Lowestoft Sixth Form pupil's personal qualities impressed the judges. We wish him every success as he prepares to set off for the RAF College, Cranwell.

Committed

He's already flown a Viking glider and a Grob Heron, and is now hoping to join the Royal Air Force with the aim of becoming a fast jet pilot.

He adds: "Nobody in the family has been in the RAF, but we always used to go to the Lowestoft Air Festival as a family, and I remember loving the event, especially when I got to play with the controls in a Wessex Gazelle."

Tom joined the Beccles Squadron at the age of 13 and first flew a Grob Tutor in 2009. He says: "I don't actually remember much about it other than it was the first time I'd sat in a light aircraft, and it felt pretty good!"

Excellent

He's also flown a Viking glider and a Grob Heron, and is now hoping to join the Royal Air Force with the aim of becoming a fast jet pilot.

He adds: "I'm still shocked. I really enjoyed the concert and it was a great honour to meet Squadron Leader Mason. It's been one of the best experiences of my life."

Cornwall Kayak Challenge

A team of over 20 cadets plus staff took to the waters in and around Cornwall for Exercise Blue Salt Blade, a challenging nine-day expedition, partly funded by a grant from the RAF Charitable Trust.

The cads from Devon & Somerset, Bristol & Gloucestershire and Hants & Isle of Wight Wings teamed up at RAF Portreath, their camp for a two-day pre-expedition training course. Here they spent time getting used to sea kayaks (somewhat longer and harder to manoeuvre than ordinary kayaks), getting to know each other and preparing for the expedition.

Training over, the cadets were ready for the off, with the constant rain at the start failing to dampen spirits. The exercise began on the Helford river, including wild camping and foraging on the shoreline, before moving on to Falmouth from where they continued to explore the coast and develop their skills.

Flight Lieutenant Phil Smith, Devon & Somerset Wing Adventure Training Officer, said: "Exercise Blue Salt Blade was put together by the Wing with the help of Shaun Rodgers, director of Sea Kayaking Cornwall and is helping to open up a whole new adventure training activity.

"We aim to include it as a regular expedition, running it every other year. Now we're looking for something new and challenging for the cadets to challenge their ability to achieve something new and challenging for the year's diary!"

Gold Reward

A party of six canoeists from 143 (Longridge) Squadron completed their Duke of Edinburgh Gold expedition with the help of a grant from the RAF Charitable Trust.

The four cadets and two adults tackled the 95km Caledonian Canal, journeying from Fort William to Inverness and over the formidable open waters of Loch Lochy and Loch Ness. An additional challenge was that the participants had to carry all their own kit and food, with shopping strictly off-limits.

Starting at Loch Dochfour, the paddlers enjoyed some spectacular scenery, ploughed on against strong headwinds, and discovered how persistent Scottish midges can be!

Ready To Roam

Air Cadets of 485 (Harborne & Quinton) Squadron, in Birmingham, are ready to roam after taking ownership of a new minibus, partly funded by a grant of £6,179 from the RAF Charitable Trust.

With the squadron’s old minibus beginning to show its age, the unit applied for a grant from the Trust, and the Trustees agreed to pay for over half the cost of the vehicle, with the remaining money being raised by members of the squadron. The new vehicle will now provide safe transport for cadets and staff, enabling them to take part in a range of experiences including visits to RAF stations and aviation heritage trips.

The keys to the minibus were presented by Trustee Alan Smith at a presentation ceremony at the squadron headquarters in Harborne. Mr Smith had previously visited the unit to assess the need for improved transportation.

He said: "During my first visit to the squadron, I was very impressed with the commitment of the whole team. On my return visit it was, therefore, a huge privilege to be able to see first hand the results of the grant from the RAF Charitable Trust. I know that the minibus will be put to good use and look forward to hearing more about the squadron’s activities in the coming months."

Officer Commanding, Warrant Officer Richard Coates, said: "The RAF Charitable Trust has greatly supported the squadron in helping replace the old minibus which has been used over the past 10 years."

He added: "With 2016 being the 75th anniversary year of the Air Cadet Organisation we’re now looking forward to attending many of the anniversary events, something that’s now possible with the support of the Trust; we’re very grateful for the assistance the Trust has provided, and look forward to enjoying the advantages this vehicle will bring to the cadets for years to come."

BELOW: Alan Smith, Trustee of the RAF Charitable Trust, is pictured with WO Richard Coates and the new Trust-sponsored minibus.
Since 1971 Sea Cadets has championed the transformational experience an offshore voyage can offer a young person. Its former flagship, TS Royalist, has sailed over 200,000 nautical miles, taking 30,000 Sea, Air and CCF cadets on unforgettable adventures around the UK and Europe. That spirit of adventure continues with the launch last summer of a new flagship, also called TS Royalist.

Teamwork
The training brig, that takes 24 cadets to sea for six-day voyages, is faster and easier to handle than the previous flagship and is more economical to run - ideal for providing young people offshore sailing, putting them in an environment that encourages the development of critical life skills, leadership and teamwork.

Three air cadets were among the very first to set sail on the new TS Royalist, sailing 168 miles around the Solent, visiting Cowes, Poole and Portsmouth, before returning to Gosport.

Cadet Tomek Kubica from 14F (Northolt) Squadron said: "The week I spent on the TS Royalist is beyond anything I could have expected. It was an amazing opportunity. Although the British weather prevented us from setting all square sails during the week, we still managed to have a great time and got the chance to participate in many different roles."

For fourteen-year-old Cadet Emma Grier (pictured) from 2028 (Southam) Squadron life on the ocean wave proved to be an unforgettable experience.

"When I arrived on board, I had no idea who anyone was or what to do but immediately I got along with everyone and my nerves went down as I found out that everyone else on the ship was like me and didn’t know anyone either. It was jump on and go from there! We were issued oilskins and jackets and were split into watches. Each day we learnt something new from how the sails worked and the different ropes to control them to being at the helm.

This exercise was like nothing I had ever done before and it was extremely exciting. But of course not everything is perfect, we managed to rip a sail and spill a lot of tea! "I loved this trip because of the activities I got to do - climbing all the way to the top of the masts and being able to get a qualification - and because of the people I got to meet. From start to end I loved this sail training exercise and would recommend it to anyone and everyone - it is a once in a life time trip and has taught me many things that I will remember my whole life!"

Images by Philip Jones

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Flying High with RAF Chefs & Caterers

Today’s Royal Air Force offers more than 50 job roles in everything from engineering and technical to communications and intelligence. But it is the logistics branch which is responsible for ensuring our personnel are fed, both on the ground and when in the air ...

So who are the men and women that make this happen and what exactly do their job roles entail to ensure the personnel of the RAF are well fuelled and fit to lead on a daily basis?

The following two job roles support each output:

- **Chef**
  - Plan, organise and prepare meals for RAF personnel at home, overseas, on the ground and in the air. RAF chefs also cater for VIPs and cook in the field under canvas.

- **Catering & Hospitality Specialist**
  - Manage the storage and service of food and beverages in dining rooms, bars, VIP functions and even in-flight.

**RAF Chef**

Chefs in the RAF have a varied role when it comes to cooking and preparing food for personnel and guests. They can be preparing food at five-star themed banquets one day and cooking as part of a mobile catering squadron the next.

Typical responsibilities for a chef include:

- Cook and prepare food in an RAF Mess
- Help prepare menus for everyday meals and VIP occasions
- Order, store and account for food
- Prepare in-flight meals for cabin crew and passengers

**SAC Daniel Charles**

Senior Aircraftman Daniel Charles joined the RAF as a chef at the age of 18 – and is today based at RAF Brize Norton as a chef in the Officers’ Mess. Speaking about his current posting SAC Charles says: “Chefs in the RAF do all kinds of work, but in my current kitchen we prepare meals for around 350 people.

“There’s a servery with about five or six choices for lunch and dinner, including a sandwich bar and meals for dietary requirements such as vegetarian and religious preferences. We take it in turns to prepare meat, vegetarian dishes, poultry and vegetables, so we do get to have a try at everything.

“I joined the RAF at a young age as I wanted to travel the world and cooking was something I always enjoyed. I had no real skills, but after completing Phase 1 Training at RAF Halton went on to complete specialist training at the Catering Training Squadron (RAF) at Worthy Down.

“This gave me an overview of catering in the RAF and the basic skills required of a chef. After two years I was promoted to SAC and have already been lucky enough to travel to the Middle East, Germany and across the UK for various cooking competitions.

“I had always wanted to be a chef, but I didn’t realise just how much I could get out of my job, such as the sports opportunities, adventure training and extra education until I joined the RAF.”

**Catering & Hospitality Specialist**

Catering and Hospitality Specialists are the RAF’s silver service trained specialists. They run dining rooms, bars in Officer and Sergeant Messes, and are responsible for in-flight meals and safety.

A career as a caterer in the RAF is both diverse and challenging, with a range of responsibilities.

Trade training, through life development, and continuous on the job training throughout your chosen career will provide you with an essential toolkit.
to deal with any eventuality. Service chefs are highly regarded and considered by many to be second to none. Typical responsibilities for an RAF caterer include:

- Serve food and drinks to top hotel and club standards
- Organise VIP functions as part of a team
- Organise in-flight catering for personnel travelling with the RAF across the world

SAC Victoria Holden – Cabin Crew

“I am currently a member of Cabin Crew working on the Voyager Airbus 330 Aircraft at RAF Brize Norton – the UK’s main airport for worldwide military operations. Cabin Crew is just one of the roles you can choose as a Catering and Hospitality Specialist in the RAF. Playing a key role in transporting troops to locations across the globe, my role is crucial in ensuring passenger safety. I rarely find myself flying a regular route and could be called to go anywhere in the world at any time.

“There are many different procedures, such as equipment checks, boarding passengers and gallery management which means every day is interesting and challenging.

“Another part of the job is air-to-air refuelling, which is a fantastic experience that I will never tire of seeing. We trail fast jets such as Tornados and refuel them during their journey. The aircraft will be so close that it’s an amazing experience and a sight to behold.

“As an RAF Caterer I cover a far larger field of professional experience than my civilian counterparts and get to go places I could only have dreamed of before. Joining the RAF was definitely the best decision I ever made.”

If you’re looking for a career with big rewards, consider a catering and hospitality role with the Royal Navy and Royal Air Force.

Life doesn’t get more varied – from preparing food at five-star banquets to cooking in the field, and from organising VIP functions to ensuring in-flight and on-ship safety.

Worldwide travel, learn while you earn – we offer opportunities few civilian careers can match.

As an RAF Caterer I get to go places I could only have dreamed of before. Joining the RAF was definitely the best decision I ever made.”
ATC Volunteers graduate

ATC Adult Volunteers (CFAVs) celebrated receiving their City & Guilds and ILM qualifications at a special ceremony held recently at RMA Sandhurst.

CVQO chairman, The Lord Lingfield, presided over the ceremony, the tenth of its kind, alongside the charity’s chief executive Guy Horridge. Joining them in the celebrations was a group of nearly 200, comprised of graduates, award winners and guests.

Honoured guests, John Leighfield CBE, Master at the Worshipful Company of Educators, and Matt Johnson, of City and Guilds, were also on hand to offer their congratulations.

Additionally, for the first time, Vocational Qualification Officers (VQOs) – those dedicated to helping young cadets gain their BTEC and ILM qualifications through CVQO – were recognised for their efforts, too. The full list of ATC graduates, award winners and VQOs follows:

Licentiateship
School Staff Instructor Christopher Botley - London Wing; Civilian Instructor Andrew Harrowell - Middlesex Wing; Flight Lieutenant Carl Johnson - Trent Wing; Flt Lt Lim Kuen Kwong - Hong Kong Air Cadets Corps

Affiliateship
Flt Lt Andrew Faulkner - South & East Midlands Wing

Graduateship
Flight Sergeant Alexander Kemp - Surrey Wing; Flt Lt Julie Thomson - Essex Wing

Membership
Squadron Leader Melita Walker - Trent Wing
ILM
Flying Officer David Ariss - Warwickshire & Birmingham Wing; Pilot Officer Martin Moores - Merseyside Wing; Flt Lt Daniel Holden - Thames Valley Wing

VQO Special Recognition
Sqn Ldr Bob Foster - Warwickshire & Birmingham Wing; Flt Lt Andrew Faulkner - South & East Midlands Wing; Flt Lt Ruth Morgan - 1211 Swadlincote Sqn; Sqn Ldr Claire Sanfield - Merseyside Wing; Deputy Wing Training Officer James Stevens - Dorset & Wiltshire Wing; Wing Commander Pheric Thussell - Merseyside Wing; Sqn Ldr Julian Van Loxton - London Wing; Sqn Ldr Rachel Waltz - Trent Wing

CVQO chief executive Guy Horridge said: “In many ways Sandhurst is the home of vocational training, so it is fitting to be here to celebrate the achievements of these adult volunteers.

“I do not think many of them join the cadet forces with the intention of gaining a qualification, but the fact that they devote so much of their time and energy to running these youth groups means it is only fair that they gain something in return – and we are thrilled to be able to offer them that.”

Sporting Champions

The Sports Cadets of the Year have been announced and the presentations made at a ceremony at RAF Cranwell.

The male sports cadet of the year is 18-year-old Cadet Sergeant Tom Dade from 222 (Broadlands) Squadron who received his award from the new Commandant of London & South East Region, Group Captain Al Lewis.

Tom has represented the Corps in football and also his region in athletics, rugby, and cross country running.

Winner of the female sports cadet of the year was Cadet Sergeant Bronwyn Jacobs, 18, from 863 (Thurston) Squadron.

The Gillan Trophy for Best Sporting Wing went to South East Scotland Wing, last year’s runners-up.

Squadron Leader Jim Henderson, Sports Officer for South East Scotland Wing said: “The win is down to team work, from our cadets who want to take part in the sports to the very dedicated group of staff who are strongly supported by the Wing Civilian Committee.”

Officer Commanding South East Scotland Wing, Wing Commander Colin McMee, said: “This was a tremendous team effort by the whole Wing and everyone can take pride in this outstanding achievement.”

Central and East Region retained the Terry Eyre Trophy for Best Sports Region – a trophy that they have won 15 years in a row - every year since the trophy was first introduced.
The Air Squadron Trophy is the ultimate prize for any RAF Section of the Combined Cadet Force and the annual competition is always closely fought. The winners of the prestigious trophy have to demonstrate a range of skills across a wide spectrum of subjects. The cadets are tested on their knowledge of foot drill, shooting, fitness, the RAF, aircraft recognition, First Aid and Leadership.

The regional heats are now underway and last month cadets from nine schools in the South West Region gathered at Blandford Garrison for their eliminator. It was a day of closely contested events with Bournemouth School finally emerging as winners with a total of 55 points. Second place was taken by Victoria College from Jersey with 53 points and third was Chichester School.

All three will go forward to the national finals at RAF Halton in the spring to compete for the prize that includes a day at Old Warden airfield flying in aircraft owned by members of The Air Squadron.

New to the competition were the cadets and staff from Penair School in Cornwall, one of the new cadet expansion programme units, who were there to compete for the first time. The Section is so new that they only received their brassard badges a few days before the competition!

Mathematics’ teacher Pilot Officer Emily Cook, who was in charge of the team, said: “We are a very new section, having only come into existence at Easter 2015. We only have an RAF section at Penair, which means we did not have the experience of any other cadets to help us prepare for our annual competition.

Proud “Getting ready in time was always going to be a challenge, but our cadets rose admirably well to the demands of the competition and I am immensely proud of what they achieved.

“We may not have won, but we entered a complete team and I am confident that the experience will stand us in good stead. We learned a lot during the day and will be back later this year fully trained and ready to give the others a real competition.”

Fourteen-year-old Cadet Ellie Passmore added: “Penair CCF has given me so many opportunities, shooting, flying and competitions. We also took part in the Remembrance Day parade in Truro. It has opened up so many doors for me and I really appreciate the time and effort put in by our instructors.

“Everyone that has joined Penair CCF has thoroughly enjoyed themselves and the discipline and respect we have learned has set us up for the rest of our lives”

Brilliant But a final word from the winners, Bournemouth School. Their Contingent Commander is Squadron Leader Joe Bishop, also a Maths’ teacher, who said: “They did brilliantly.

“The team maintained a good overall standard with three first places, two seconds and one third. The preparation was down to a lot of effort and training put in by the cadets themselves and in their own time.”

Team Captain, Cadet Flight Sergeant Emma Graves, 18, pictured above receiving the trophy from Wing Commander Bob Chalkin, added: “There were a lot of people involved and a number of personnel changes along the way, but in the end everyone pulled together for a great result.”

Words & images by Jones
Cadets from 2344 (Longbenton) Squadron visited RAF Boulmer and became Aerospace Battle Managers for the day.

"We got to visit the Control and Reporting Centre (CRC) to see the ABMs in action," said 17 year-old Corporal Jordon Workman.

"It was really interesting to see how the role is performed and great fun to identify aircraft using the radar," he added.

"In the CRC we helped to identify aircraft and learnt how the ABMs do this to ensure potential threats are intercepted by RAF Typhoon jets," said 18 year-old Cadet Sergeant Joseph Hodgson.

"We got to visit the Control and Reporting Centre No.1 ACC at RAF Scampton; or return to the School of Aerospace Battle Management at RAF Boulmer as an instructor.

Some ABMs take their first steps out of this world at RAF Fylingdales on the North Yorkshire Moors as ABMs form the core of the UK's space situational awareness military cadre. Additionally, there are opportunities to work closely alongside both the British Army and the Royal Navy. Later in the day, replicating the Air C2 training that both UK and allied armed forces undertake, the budding ABM cadets then participated in a Tactical Air Simulation on the School of Aerospace Battle Management's Tactical Floor to put all they had learnt into practice.

Cadet Rachel Findlay, 15, said: "The exercise was great fun! We had to work as a team to decide what equipment we would use, what tactics we would use and respond to how the scenario played out."

Squadron Leader Andrew Crosby, who is the RAF's ABM Branch Advisor is himself a former Air Cadet. He explained that the Air Cadets of today who are used to making dynamic, informed decisions to achieve success, whether it be choosing a route in poor weather to stay safe during a Duke of Edinburgh's Expedition or playing on-line video games with multiple data sources to achieve a mission, have exactly the type of multitasking and prioritisation skills that will see them succeed and have a rewarding career as an RAF ABM.

Cadets wanting a similar hands-on experience and learn more about a stimulating and exciting career as an ABM should apply for a place on the ‘National Aerospace Camp’ at RAF Syerston in August. For cadets in the London and South East Region the 'Future Aerospace Leaders Week' at Crowborough Camp in April will also provide another opportunity.

For more information on a career as a RAF ABM go to www.raf.mod.uk/recruitment/ and search ABM.
RAF Air Cadets Music Services supports Yorkshire-based music business

The Royal Air Force Air Cadets Music Services is supporting a Yorkshire charity business, Mayfield instrument manufacturers, through the purchase of Mayfield Bell Lyre instruments.

Wing Commander Gil Singleton, Principal Director of Music (ACO) ordered the bell lyre instruments for use by the National Marching Band, which were hand delivered by Philip Bartey, Group Chief Executive at Autism Plus. The instruments were presented to Air Commodore Dawn McCafferty, Commandant of the Air Cadet Organisation, at RAF Cranwell.

Philip was accompanied by his two sons, Christian and Daniel, who are members of 868 (Mirfield) Squadron in West Yorkshire.

Air Commodore Dawn McCafferty commented that the boys were the smartest Air Cadets she had ever seen. She invited the boys to sit in her chair and to pose for group photographs. Philip Bartey presented the Air Commodore with chocolates manufactured at the Autism Plus chocolate factory at Ampleforth, North Yorkshire.

A special chocolate plaque commemorating the 75th Anniversary of the Royal Air Force Air Cadets was also presented, along with another special chocolate gift to be presented to the Honorary Ambassador of the Air Cadets, Group Captain Carol Vorderman.

Mayfield is a social enterprise, under the ownership of charity, Autism Plus, whose aim is to support people with autism, learning disabilities and mental health conditions to improve their quality of life. Autism Plus service users are involved in the manufacture of the Mayfield instruments, providing an opportunity to gain valuable work related skills, build confidence and to take better control over their lives.

Mayfield is renowned worldwide for making bespoke, handmade bell lyres and marching bells for winning concert and marching bands.

Based at the Autism Plus headquarters at the Exchange Brewery in Sheffield, the Mayfield workshop gives people with autism and other complex needs an opportunity to develop their social skills in a safe and relaxed environment.

The RAF Air Cadets Music Services are delighted to source some of their instruments from such a unique organisation.


For more information visit the Mayfield website at
www.mayfieldbelllyres.co.uk
London Wing cadets as well as CCF(RAF) cadets from the City of London School helped the Royal Air Force unveil a giant mosaic banner to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Battle of Britain. The banner, which measures approximately eight metres by five metres, is composed of 60,000 photographs each one square-inch in area. To achieve this, members of the public were asked to upload photos over a three week period to a digital mosaic from which the banner was created. The public uploaded 12,000 images that were used to constitute the entire Battle of Britain Mosaic.

The special mosaic was unveiled on BBC Television’s The One Show. The aim of the commemorative mosaic is to symbolically acknowledge the contribution to victory by all who took part in the defence of Britain. The Battle of Britain was the first major battle to be fought entirely by air forces and it was the first significant strategic defeat suffered by the Nazi Third Reich. Winston Churchill coined the phrase “The few” in referring to the tenacious RAF pilots and aircrew when he said in a speech to the House of Commons: “Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few.”

"The battle could not have been won without the immense bravery and sacrifice of the few. The reality was that many others, men and women, also made a vital contribution to that victory. Air Commodore Nigel Bradshaw from RAF Headquarters Air Command said: "The reality was that the few were supported by the many during the battle. The mosaic reflects this – many thousands of individual images coming together to create a remarkable effect. "A wonderful reflection of the teamwork that secured victory 75 years ago and we're delighted that the public have shown their support by uploading so many images. "It's both moving and humbling to look at the thousands of uploaded images and to see the mix of contemporary photos along with what are clearly treasured pictures of family members who served in the Royal Air Force or other Services. "And of course, when we look at all of those images, we are reminded that the Royal Air Force is a reflection of the society and the nation it continues to protect – now, just as it was during the Battle of Britain.'

"The Battle of Britain Commemorative Mosaic is now on public display in the Bomber Hall of the RAF Museum at Hendon in North London until 18th September this year."

Cadets Support Wartime Heroes Cadets from 1146 (Barnstaple) Squadron are hosting an open evening at their headquarters on 4th February to celebrate the Corps’ 75th anniversary. They will be joined by cadets and staff from 326 (Hartland), 20 (Bideford), 1079 (Tiverton) and 722 (Chivenor) Squadrons as well as cadets from West Buckland CCF (RAF) Section. Flight Lieutenant Glyn Clark, Officer Commanding 1146 Squadron, said: "We hope former cadets and staff of the ATC and CCF (RAF) will join us to share memories and get the chance to see what the ACC does today. If you are interested in attending, please contact the squadron on 01271 370863 for more information."

Open evening Cadets from 1146 (Barnstaple) Squadron are hosting an open evening at their headquarters on 4th February to celebrate the Corps’ 75th anniversary. They will be joined by cadets and staff from 326 (Hartland), 20 (Bideford), 1079 (Tiverton) and 722 (Chivenor) Squadrons as well as cadets from West Buckland CCF (RAF) Section. Flight Lieutenant Glyn Clark, Officer Commanding 1146 Squadron, said: "We hope former cadets and staff of the ATC and CCF (RAF) will join us to share memories and get the chance to see what the ACC does today. If you are interested in attending, please contact the squadron on 01271 370863 for more information."
Reaching new heights...

A team of 12 cadets and two staff from 234 (City of Durham) Squadron have returned from a challenging expedition, trekking in the French Pyrenees and summiting the mighty Pic du Canigou.

After 15 months of planning, fundraising and training, the week-long expedition, boosted by a grant from the RAF Charitable Trust, tested the cadets both physically and mentally.

Two challenging acclimatization walks – the second including scaling the 2,505m peak ‘Roc Colom’ – prepared the cadets both for the tricky terrain and hiking at altitude.

Then it was time to tackle the Pic Du Canigou. A five and a half hour climb brought the team to the chimney, the final, vertical stretch.

“Danger was in front of us. Rocks could fall at any minute but no one seemed worried. Excitement and adrenaline was all that was going through our minds. We’d made it!” said 16 year-old Corporal Charlotte Mole. “The views were breathtaking. We were all overwhelmed and so happy to have made it to the top.”

“The Pyrenees expedition was an amazing opportunity with breathtaking experiences,” said Cadet Corporal Sarah Rowell, 16. “I can now say I’ve climbed the most spectacular mountain in the Pyrenees with the best group of friends I could have asked for.

“IT was mentally as well as physically challenging but a fantastic, once in a lifetime opportunity,” she added.

Team leader, Flight Lieutenant Will Close-Ash, said, “Having worked already with the team on their training expeditions, I knew that they were a fit team. I was very impressed with how they applied themselves during the whole expedition, not just with the mountaineering aspect.

“They worked solidly together as a team, especially on the summit day which was very demanding. They were a credit to their squadron.”

New Cadet Centre opens

Aviemore’s brand-new Joint Cadet Centre has been opened by the Lord Lieutenant of Inverness, Donald Cameron of Lochiel.

The £600,000 facility – jointly funded by the Highland Reserve Forces’ and Cadets’ Association (HRFCA), the RAF and the Army – will be used by 52 (Aviemore) Squadron and the Aviemore Detachment of 1st Battalion the Highlanders ACF.

At the opening, attended by cadets, staff, local councillors, members of the community and dignitaries, the Lord Lieutenant said: “I’m sure you’ll agree it’s an impressive building and an ideal facility for the Army and Air Cadet detachments and brings a very welcome boost to this rural community.”

Group Captain Jim Leggat, Scotland & Northern Ireland Regional Commandant, added: “It’s a tremendous facility that is already paying dividends with new cadets and the community.”

Image: Squadron Leader Andy Dobson

Everyone was incredible.

I went on a journey I’ll never forget.

It helped me get my Summer job.

AGED 15-17?
DON’T MISS OUT ON A ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME OPPORTUNITY.
FIND OUT MORE AND SIGN UP ONLINE NOW.
Cadets and staff from 2530 (Uckfield) and 19 (Crawley) Squadrons have just returned from a two week expedition to Morocco.

The trip, supported by the Ulysses Trust and the Worshipful Company of Security Professionals, had two main aims: to summit the highest peak in the High Atlas Mountains, Jebel Toukbal at 4,107m, and to help a local Berber community build a water tank.

Unfortunately, on arrival the team found that they had already lost Toukbal summit due to early season snow. Undeterred and bolstered by an altitude acclimatisation walk, the team headed up to Neltler Shelter, a climb of 1,200m.

The night that followed saw heavy rain followed by clear skies and freezing temperatures, and the team woke to find other teams heading down to the warmth of the valley below. Soon into the trek it became obvious that what had fallen on us as rain was snow high up on the mountain, and the snow-covered summit of Toukbal seemed to watch us in defiance as we slowly gained height on the opposite face.

After about two hours of ascent we reached the snow line at 3,500m where we had to take care on some frozen sections that had spread across the established paths. A short climb later we reached the col below Aguelzim Peak at 3,650m which gave amazing views into three different valleys as well as over to the Toukbal Massif in the distance.

Cadet Flight Sergeant Lauren Thynne said: “My highlight of the trip was when I was able to overcome my own mental barriers to climb a mountain. Being in the isolation of the mountains really helped me to clear my head making me feel positive even when the temperature was below freezing!”

Phase two of the expedition was helping the local Berber community who desperately needed a water tank to help irrigate the orchards during the long, hot summer. It was a huge physical challenge – four days of hard labour moving over six tonnes of ballast by hand over a 300m uneven path in short relays to a flat section near to the river.

As we delivered the locals converted the ballast into concrete and slowly we saw a concrete box rise from the floor. By the finish, our joint efforts had furnished a 15m² concrete water tank (pictured) some two metres deep – capable of holding 100,000 gallons of water to feed the orchards over the summer months. As we left the locals had started on the water channels to deliver water to the tank and then feed the irrigation ditches in the orchards below.

Finally we returned to Marrakech where the team had 24 hours to sample the local cuisine of the Jem al Fina market,

explore the chaotically bustling market of Marrakech, Morocco proved to be a rewarding and eye-opening adventure for Sussex Wing cadets...
Celebrating 50 years

Squadron Leader John Oliver has celebrated an amazing 50 years with the Air Cadet Organisation.

After joining the Corps in 1965, John attained the highest rank of Cadet Warrant Officer. He was commissioned directly into the RAF (VR(T)) in 1972 and has served at 2122 (Twistock) Squadron ever since, including three stints as Officer Commanding.

To commemorate the occasion, Kevin Smith, chairman of the Squadron, asked Rear Admiral Keith Beckett CBE to make a special presentation to John.

Making the journey from Gloucester, Rear Admiral Beckett presented John with a replica percussion cap pistol – an acknowledgement of John’s keen interest in shooting and recognition of his many years’ service as a range officer and weapon instructor. Rear Admiral Beckett also presented the annual squadron awards to cadets together with BTEC Certificates in Public Service and Aviation studies.

Cadet Warrant Officer Callum Smith and Cadet Flight Sergeants Jamie Brown and Matt Boyle also received Certificates of Merit from Wing Commander Francis Revs, Officer Commanding Plymouth and Cornwall Wing.

Surprise Royal Visitor

Cadets from 649 (Dursley) Squadron enjoyed the unexpected company of HRH Prince Edward, Earl of Wessex, when he visited their stand at the Frampton Country Fair. The cadets were spending the day promoting the squadron with the help of Bristol and Gloucestershire Wing’s Recruitment and Engagement Vehicle with its newly fitted glider simulator.

Tour de Air Cadets

Throughout the year, cadets from 1461 (Wigston) Squadron will be embarking on a huge fundraising challenge, cycling to each and every ATC squadron. The aim: to raise £7,500 to coincide with the 75th Anniversary of the Corps with the cash being evenly shared between the squadron, The Royal Air Forces Association, Derbyshire, Leicester & Rutland Air Ambulance and The Ralph-Brickley Gliding Bursary. The total mileage the cadets and staff will need to cover on their static cycles is almost 12,000 miles - an average of 123 miles per parade night.

Cosy Squirrels

Taking refuge from the cold weather, a dray of grey squirrels has decided to make HQAC its home. The cute a dray of grey squirrels has decided to make HQAC its home. The cute...
Tech Upgrade

A local estate agents has helped Grimsby air cadets upgrade their computer systems. The local company, Martin Maslins, donated a number of computers and IT equipment to 195 (Grimsby) Squadron to enable the cadets to develop their computer network. Commanding Officer, Flight Lieutenant Terance Shird said: “We are very grateful to Martin Maslins – they have helped us incredibly. Our cadets undertake exams to get some of their cadet qualifications, and in recent years those exams have been moved online. However, a lack of sufficient IT equipment & infrastructure has meant that we have had to limit or space out the number of cadets taking exams. Now however, with the addition of these computers, more cadets can take their exams and gain their badges.” John Hudson, Senior Partner at Martin Maslins and Non-Executive Partner, Lynn Hudson, said: “We were having a tech upgrade at the office and were left with some PCs of varying age. Our daughter is an officer at 195 Squadron, following time spent as a cadet, and she suggested that we donate them to the cadets. Having seen first-hand how much the squadron can help develop young people, we were more than happy to do so.”

Spitfire trail success

King’s Lynn’s ‘Spitfire Trail’, organised by Flight Lieutenant Pauline Petch, Commanding Officer of 42F (King’s Lynn) Squadron, has proved to be a huge success. Not only was the trail of 24 individually decorated model Spitfires followed by thousands of visitors during the summer but now each of the models has been auctioned, raising more than £3,000. The money will be shared between The Royal Air Forces Association (RAFA), Walking With Wounded and 42F (King’s Lynn) Association (RAFA), Walking With Wounded. The three members of staff to the Pyrenees.

Helping cadets achieve

Cadets from 2344 (Longbenton) Squadron in Newcastle upon Tyne have been making the most of two grants awarded by the RAF Charitable Trust. The money helped fund training and development, during which cadets took their own programme into the community to help others gain skills and qualifications, and an ambitious expedition to the Pyrenees.

The Wounded and 42F (King’s Lynn) Association (RAFA), Walking With Wounded, we were more than happy to do so. The two activities were brought together at Operation Flying Circus, the squadron’s annual awards evening at which the Lord Lieutenant of Tyne & Wear and RAFCT Trustee Alan Smith were guests of honour.

Alan said: “The event was extremely well organised, and the leadership of the squadron was very impressive, as was the spirit and capabilities of the cadets.”

I was delighted to see that the Charitable Trust’s contribution was singled out in the speeches and during the presentation, and am very happy to pass on the squadron’s gratitude to the Trust.” The 50-strong unit applied for £9,491 for training resources for Operation Seneca, the Squadron’s Training and Development Programme. Working in one of the most deprived areas of the UK, the aim was to help young people realise their potential by gaining qualifications, and to make a difference in their community by leading STEM, aerospace and sports activities. The money bought several computer tablets plus MTA activity kits and CREST qualification kits, and the equipment is being put to good use with the cadets creating The 2344 Offer.

This programme aims to challenge and motivate young people to help them achieve, with members of the squadron visiting local schools and youth groups to run leadership, STEM and aerospace activities and sports. The result has been an influx of over 20 new cadets to the Air Cadets.

The Squadron also received a grant of £1,250 to help fund Op Iveron, an expedition which took six cadets and three members of staff to the Pyrenees and the summit of the 2,784m Pic du Canigou.

Making a splash

Flying Officer Kathy Betts, Section Commander of the RAF section at Kings Rochester CCF, is aiming to join an elite group of marathon swimmers who have all completed the Triple Crown of open water swimming.

The three swims – crossing the English Channel, circumnavigating Manhattan Island in New York and crossing the Catalina Channel in southern California – total more than 65 miles of tough open water swimming. She has already completed a solo swim across the 21 miles of the English Channel, becoming the eighth oldest person to do so, and now with the Manhattan race under her swim cap is looking ahead to tackling the 20-mile Catalina Channel later this year.

A keen swimmer all her life, Kathy completed the 28.5 mile swim around Manhattan Island escorted by members of the New York Police Department.

Kathy faced challenges throughout the journey – acclimatising to the water was good with the sea in the UK and taking on enough food to fuel her marathon swim. She said: “The scenery was breathtaking. The water was good with the exception of the East River which was so polluted and smelt awful, here I did Head up Front Crawl for about 300m it just wasn’t worth putting my face in the water”.

However, before she takes on the challenge of Catalina, top of her swim list is being part of the Air Cadets’ 75th Anniversary English Channel Relay swims.

The Corps Band, Drill and Banner Competitions were held recently at Royal Air Force Halton watched by a number of high profile guests including the Air Cadets’ Ambassador and Honorary Group Captain Carol Vorderman.

First honours went to cadets from 1015 (Hornsham) Squadron who ran out clear winners in both Banner Party and Banner Bearer competitions.

The Drill Competition is probably the Corps’ most keenly fought competition with squadrons spending many hours perfecting intricate routines in an effort to gain the coveted title of Best in the Corps.

This year that honour went to 1454 (Harrow) Squadron, again representing London and South East Region. The Reviewing Officer for the Drill was Air Vice-Marshal Andrew Turner, Air Officer Commanding (AOC) 22 (Trg) Group and Chief of Staff (Trg) at HQ Air Command. He was also joined by Air Commodore Dawn McCafferty, Commandant Air Cadets and the Station Commander at RAF Halton, Group Captain Adrian Vorderman.

The AOC said that he was exceptionally pleased to watch the best drill competition in the country which challenged the Queen’s Colour Squadron for its quality and accuracy and that he was extremely proud to be associated with the Air Cadet Organisation.
The closing date for the Royal Air Forces Association’s Flying Scholarships programme is fast approaching.

The programme is open to members of the Air Cadet Organisation (ACO), the Girls Venture Corps Air Cadets (GVCAC) and the Air Scouts/Air Explorer Scouts.

The Flying Scholarship award is presented each year as a thank you to members of the ACO, GVCAC and Air Scouts/Air Explorer Scouts for their continuous support of the Association.

Winning candidates are rewarded with a course of 35 hours’ flight training in a light aircraft, and the course covers all or part of the tuition needed to obtain a National Private Pilot Licence (NPPL). Five runners-up receive 12 hours’ training each.

To be eligible for the award you need to have been a member of the ACO, GVCAC or Air Scouts/Air Explorer Scouts for at least 12 months plus be over 16 and under 20 on 1 June 2016. The deadline for applications is 31 January 2016.

The application form and terms and conditions can be found at: www.rafa.org.uk/what-we-do/air-cadets/flying-scholarships

TOP: Joseph Potter, Bridie Wakeford, Joel Thornton, Association National President Air Marshal Sir Dusty Miller, Daniel Dedman.

‘Outstanding’ Cadets Honoured

Cadets from 1827 (Odiham) Squadron have been recognised for their ‘outstanding contribution to RAF Odiham’s reputation’.

Representing the squadron, a small team of cadets and staff received the award from Carol Vorderman and Group Captain Rich Maddison, RAF Odiham’s Station Commander.

The award was part of RAF Odiham’s annual ‘Promise and Fulfil’ awards, which formally recognises and celebrates the outstanding performance of nominated individuals/teams and acknowledges noteworthy contribution in primary and additional duties. The cadets were thrilled to win the award, which recognised the work the squadron does on the station and in and around the local area representing ‘the blue footprint’.

Leadership skills

Twenty six air cadets have taken part in CVQO’s annual week-long Leadership Course.

The group were joined by Army, Sea and, for the first time, Fire Service cadets for the week-long course in Somerset.

During the course, hosted by training specialists Outposts, the cadets completed a series of command tasks, including trebuchet construction, canyon crossing and raft building, in addition to classroom-based theory sessions, to achieve an ILM Level 3 in Leadership and Management.

The qualification is an important part of the development of young learners, as they move into further education or employment. It brings out key skills in leadership, management and teamwork.

Rowan Adair, of 452 (Hornchurch) Squadron, said: “The whole experience has been terrific and I’ve been working with some amazing people. I’ve also been doing the Air Cadet Junior Leaders’ course, which works so well together with this. Combining the theoretical side with the practical is fantastic, too.”

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Dozens of air cadets travelled to London to collect their Gold Award certificates at St James' Palace in the presence of His Royal Highness The Earl of Wessex.

They gathered in the Queen Anne Room where special guest Carol Vorderman praised their achievements.

She said: “My daughter has her Silver DofE Award so I understand the level of hard work, commitment and effort required to achieve your Gold DofE Award. You have all shown the promise and capacity to fulfil your dreams, whatever they are. A huge congratulations to all of you.”

**Determination**

Wing Commander Helen Gerrish, Corps DofE Development Officer, added: “Achieving your Gold Award is a big deal. It shows that you have the skills, determination and mentality to really succeed. So it’s only right that your achievement is celebrated, as they have with her.

She then went on to present a Long Service certificate to Major Leon Hornsby, a service helper with 1368 (Warwick & Royal Leamington Spa) Squadron.

**Cheerful**

Afterwards, a cadet request for a selfie outside the Palace turned into a half hour unscheduled photo opportunity!

“She was so kind and cheerful, as if she really wanted to be there instead of doing it because she should. It was great!” said one cadet.

Another added “Carol Vorderman was really great and her involvement with the cadet organisation shows she really cares about young people and their achievements. “She made everyone feel at ease and spoke to us all as though we’d known her for years.”

**Residential Inspires**

A five-day residential based on both Activities and Leadership training for cadets from across the South West Region took place at RRH Portreath.

Team exercises were high on the agenda – the first one being on arrival to erect the five-berth framed tents!

The cadets and one CI then completed their Introduction to the DoE Course, followed by the Team Working Skills and Managing a Group modules in the DoE Leadership programme which they all successfully completed.

In addition to the classroom-based learning, there were several practical exercises as well as the chance to go kayaking and mountain biking along the Devoran Way.

The course was directed by the South West Region’s DoE Officer, Squadron Leader Phil Newcombe, with the support of Civilian Instructors Andy Vodden from 2174 (North Plymouth) Squadron and Shaun Reid from 2312 (Tavistock) Sqn. Squadron Leader Newcombe said: “All the participants went away inspired to become either the leader or assistant leaders on their squadrons to enhance the success in the growth of the Award in the South West Region.”

And in one case it has done just that. Cadet Sergeant Helen Forrest from 1010 (Salisbury) Squadron, used her new found enthusiasm to encourage and coach the squadron’s junior cadets to enrol in the Award, becoming the squadron’s DoE Leader. In turn, this also helps Helen complete her volunteering for her Gold Award.

**Going for Gold**

The dramatic and beautiful surroundings of southern Germany and Austria provided the backdrop for the 26th annual Cadet Gold DofE expedition last August.

Nineteen air cadets were joined by 14 Army Cadets and supported by 11 Adult Volunteers from both Cadet Forces during the expedition in Bavaria. The cadets and staff were spread amongst six teams ensuring collaboration and teamwork between both organisations.

All successfully completed the four-day expeditions in glorious weather with high temperatures and magnificent views.
The lion’s share of the silverware at the recent Cadet Inter Services Skill at Arms Meeting was claimed by the Air Cadets - with outstanding team and individual performances giving the ACO its best results ever...

This year, a total of 19 Air Training Corps’ teams, including five new teams, competed against cadets from both the Army Cadet Force and the Sea Cadet Corps in three days of demanding L98A2 and L86A2 (LSW) competitions.

Zerking and practice sessions on the Friday gave way to the first competition – the Urban Contact Match, held at 100m, 75m and 50m using the prone, sitting and kneeling positions.

Superb
This year saw a vast improvement on scores with the top 10 cadets separated by only a few points. This year Cadet Corporal Nick Avis of 1297 (Stonehaven) Squadron won with a superb 99 out of 100, winning outright by one point.

The competitions held on Saturday included the Rifle and LSW pairs competitions. These matches now see cadets firing deliberate, snap and rapid fire at varying distances from 100m to 300m using prone and the standing fire trench (supported) positions as well as advancing to the firing points.

The results from these matches also count towards the individual trophies, including the Cadet 50 award - a green National Rifle Association Badge worn on the brassard with the year that it was awarded. It’s also a chance for the staff to see how they measure up to the cadets in the adult instructor competition. Flight Sergeant S R Ross from 1297 (Stonehaven) Sqn won with a score of 45/50 with Officer Cdt M Smith from 31 (Tower Hamlets) Sqn in joint second with a 42/50.

Another close competition followed with the Defence Match.

Challenging
This is a deliberate, snap and rapid at 300m. A challenging and quick match that is used for the entry criteria for any teams wishing to enter CISSAM. This year it was topped by three ATC teams with 1297 (Stonehaven) Sqn winning with a score of 399, beating 31 (Tower Hamlets) Sqn into second place with 382. In third place was 241 (Wanstead & Woodford) Sqn, also scoring 382 but they were beaten on count back.

The Advance to Contact Match again saw the ATC taking the top three places in a very tight competition with 1297 (Stonehaven) Sqn first, 126 (City of Derby) Sqn second and 31 (Tower Hamlets) Sqn in third on count back.

The Team Snap trophy and another clean sweep for the ATC with 31 (Tower Hamlets) Sqn winning this match scoring 282 with 126 (City of Derby) Sqn in second on 258 points and 1297 (Stonehaven) Sqn in third place with a score of 235.

The Saturday competitions finished with the ACF taking nearly every major trophy including top team and individual. The top three overall teams were all from the ACF who won by a massive margin. Overall Top Team Trophy and four gold medals went to 31 (Tower Hamlets) Sqn scoring 1470 with silver medals going to 241 (Wanstead & Woodford) Sqn scoring 1424 and bronze place going to 126 (City of Derby) Sqn scoring 1390.

Incredible
The top individual Trophy and gold medal went to FS Chloe Jones of 1344 (Cardiff) Sqn scoring 393, beating an Army cadet into second place by an incredible 25 points. In third place was FS Radford Ramage, 126 (City of Derby) Sqn who scored 365.

Time for the Inter-Services Team Final with the best 12 selected cadets from each Service competing against each other. This shoot comprises of a deliberate, rapid and snap, shoot at 300, 200 and 100m respectively, with a rundown between each.

The cadets arrive at the range early to be briefed by the HQAC Shooting Development Team, iron out any issues and answer any questions. Watched by supporters from all three Services, the tension on the range is obvious, but the air cadets held their nerve. The ACF beat the ACF by 10 points, just two hits, again showing how close the matches are.

If your squadron is interested in competitive rifle shooting, either Smallbore or Fullbore, and would like more information, please contact OC Shooting Development Team, Wing Commander George Campbell on shooting2@aircadets.com or the team Adjudant on shooting1@aircadets.com for information.

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The prestigious and highly competitive Cadet Inter Services Skill at Arms Meeting (CISSAM) held at Pirbright at the end of October is the culmination of the shooting calendar for cadets.

This annual, top level competition was founded as a result of the combined desire of the Army Cadet Force, the Air Training Corps and the Sea Cadet Corps to provide a high level of competition and is testament to the dedication and commitment of our staff. It was named Top Team Trophy.

By Flying Officer Henryk Golazewski

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