

Air Cadet

Spring 2021

Ex Cadet
Leads the Way

Tempest
The Next
Generation

Air Cadets'
80th Anniversary



18



59



48



36



40



13



32

“On behalf of everyone in the RAF Air Cadets, I wish Emma the very best of luck in this most epic of adventures.”

Air Commodore Tony Keeling,
Commandant Air Cadets

AirCadet Contents

SPRING 2021



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Cover Image: Leading the way: Former RAF Air Cadet Flying Officer Emma Graves has graduated as one of the first female RAF Regiment officers. Image Crown Copyright.

Image Left: High Flier: Anchoring our 80th Anniversary year is former RAF Air Cadet Emma Wolstenholme who is planning to row the Atlantic solo to raise money for the air cadets.

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Exciting times ahead!



Well, what a year! I interviewed for the role of Commandant RAF Air Cadets on 28th April 2020, some six weeks into the first national lockdown.

At that time we were just beginning to understand how to adjust to working from home, and I suspect the interview was amongst the first to be conducted by the RAF online.

Roll forward to early 2021 and I have been in post for five months, and my engagement with the RAF Air Cadets has been almost completely conducted on MS Teams.

While trying to understand an organisation of the scale and complexity of the RAF Air Cadets from my keyboard has been a huge challenge, I am immensely grateful to the staff and volunteers across the HQ, Regions, CCF(RAF) and 2 FTS for their incredible efforts in welcoming me to the team and explaining the important roles they play in delivering our fantastic cadet experience.

Equally impressive has been the increased use of virtual tools and social media as a means to keep cadets and volunteers connected, which has been of significant importance to the health and wellbeing of so many. It also highlights the strength of character of this amazing organisation, and its ability to respond with spirit and imagination in the face of considerable challenge.



Many cadets were able to return to their squadrons and sections and some even got airborne, went shooting and completed leadership exercises. Others continued to work on their DoFE Awards and the amazing RAF Air Cadet syllabus with STEM, cyber and space at its core.

“We will seek to make sure that our 80th logo features in all that we do this year, so that it becomes a very visible part of our journey to a new normal.”

The migration of the syllabus online to enable home learning and development has been a success story in itself, so we will look to see how we can retain these benefits for the future.

I do recognise that, for many, continued isolation and a life lived online is increasingly wearisome, and the return to face-to-face activity cannot come soon enough; thankfully light is on the horizon as the vaccination programme gets under way. Thank you for sticking with us during this time, it is greatly appreciated.

Much has been learned since the first lockdown and we are now better prepared. COVID-19 safety measures and working practices across the RAF Air Cadets are in place and kept under constant review.

Nevertheless, I have asked my Senior Leadership Team to make sure that we can swiftly and safely return to our squadron and section buildings, and participate in the full range of cadet activities, as soon as conditions permit.

Looking forward, 2021 marks the 80th Anniversary of the ATC and of many CCF (RAF) Sections; ordinarily this would be a cause for considerable celebration, but we would be unwise to commit too much time and resource to delivering events that could well be cancelled due to issues beyond our control.

Therefore, we will seek to make sure that our 80th logo features in all that we do this year, so that it becomes a very visible part of our journey to a new normal.

I am extremely proud of everybody in the RAF Air Cadets for their innovation, determination and resilience. Exciting times lie ahead, and I'm thrilled at the prospect of finally getting to meet you all in person. Stay safe. #OneFamily

Keeping the memories alive



By Denise E. Parker
Head of Media Communications

Image Carl Nicol ©

The stories of Royal Air Force personnel who died in the World Wars will be shared with a new generation thanks to a project launched by the RAF Air Cadets and the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, one of a number of initiatives to be launched in the Air Cadets 80th Anniversary.

The programme will offer thousands of young people in the UK the chance to discover the war dead commemorated near to where they live.

Cadets will be encouraged to research local casualties of war and share what they have learned with family, friends and their community.

“...we hope to keep alive the memory of the men and women who sacrificed their all.”

They will each receive training on how to use online sources to piece together the life stories of these heroic men and women who gave their lives in service of their country.

By learning more about their lives and their roles during the First and Second World Wars, it is hoped cadets will gain a

better understanding of the impact the wars had on their local community.

Cadets will also be able to share their findings to the CWGC's digital wall of remembrance using the hashtag #ShareYourTribute.

Commandant Air Cadets, Air Commodore Tony Keeling, said: “As we mark our 80th Anniversary this year we hope to commemorate as well as celebrate and inspire.

“Working with the Commonwealth War Graves Commission is a truly wonderful opportunity for us to commemorate the brave military personnel who sadly gave their lives for the future of this country.

“The Air Cadets is no longer a recruitment organisation for the Royal Air Force, but back in 1941 when the organisation was first established, many young cadets who learnt aviation-related subjects joined the RAF and fought for their country.

“As part of our 80th Anniversary we are absolutely honoured to be joining the CWGC in this exciting project to keep the memories of our predecessors alive.”

Liz Woodfield, director of information and communications at the CWGC, said: “We are delighted to be partnering with the RAF Air Cadets in this project that will help a new generation connect with the stories of the war dead.

“The World Wars touched every community in the UK in some way and it is important we always remember. By helping the next generation to understand the stories local to them, we hope to keep alive the memory of the men and women who sacrificed their all.

“We look forward to seeing the results of the cadets' research and hope to be able to expand this project to more youth groups and to schools in the future.”

CWGC maintains war graves and memorials to more than 300,000 World War dead in the UK alone, at more than 12,500 locations. To learn more about this side of CWGC's work, visit: www.cwgc.org/exploreGB



Image Philip Jones ©

This year marks the 80th Anniversary of the Air Training Corps and many Combined Cadet Force (RAF) units ... a really special moment in time that sees the cadets “reaching for the stars”.

Words by Denise E. Parker
Head of Media Communications
Images by Philip Jones and Crown Copyright

With COVID-19 pandemic restrictions in place, it is a very different type of anniversary but that's not stopping this organisation of 60,000 cadets, volunteers and permanent staff as a comprehensive digital campaign swings into place.

And events in the summer and autumn, such as our involvement in air shows, shooting competitions and the national aerospace camp will be heavily branded with the 80th logo to make sure this big birthday is marked in style.

What's certain is that whilst many elements of the original Air Training Corps (ATC) and Combined Cadet Force (RAF) remain in place including the aviation, shooting, fitness and good citizenship elements, the organisation has moved on with the times.

Widely revered as one of the best youth organisations in the world, the RAF Air Cadets, which comprises both the ATC and the CCF (RAF), today delivers a training programme that truly “slips the surly bonds of earth” ... with space and cyber at its centre of gravity.

If space organisations such as NASA and the ESA are seeking astronauts for the future they need look no further.



80 Big Years Reaching for the stars

Once air cadets were “tongue in cheek” called the space cadets but now space training, along with aviation, STEM and cyber is absolutely fundamental and space cadets as a term is more accurate.

With the RAF's new Astra programme behind us the RAF Air Cadets “The Next Generation” is storming the final frontier... (pardon the puns).

And as a result of the COVID pandemic much of the syllabus available to cadets is now accessible virtually

thanks to the efforts of the training team staff and volunteers.

As we enter our ninth decade we certainly intend to celebrate the here and now even with an unprecedented whirlwind on our tail and so...

Epic Solo Atlantic Row

Anchoring our 80th anniversary year will be former air cadet and RAF officer Emma Wolstenholme who aims to complete an epic voyage – rowing the Atlantic solo

to raise money for the air cadets. Not only that, she hopes to smash the record books too as the fastest female rower.

Emma said: “When I found out it was the RAF Air Cadets' 80th Anniversary in 2021, I realised that I wanted to give something back to the organisation that had shaped my life and got me where I am today.

“I grew up in Burnley - one of the poorer areas of Lancashire - and if it hadn't been for the adventurous training, self-discipline, teamwork and leadership development the Air Cadets gave me, I wouldn't have joined the Royal Air Force and I wouldn't have had such amazing adventures along the way. I want to spread the word about what Air Cadets can offer.”

We shall be charting Emma's progress and wish her bon voyage! Read the full story on page 32.

Commonwealth War Graves Commission Project

The line-up for the anniversary also includes a very special 80th project with the Commonwealth War Graves Commission with stories of Royal Air Force personnel who died in the World Wars being shared with a new generation of young people.

The programme will offer thousands of cadets in the UK the chance to discover the war dead commemorated near to where they live. See more on page six.

Talent Competition

In the run up to the anniversary, Central & East Region kindly designed a national talent competition RAF Air Cadets Has Talent to find the best singers, magicians, entertainers and dancers in the organisation. Whatever their talent both cadets and volunteers were invited to participate with a digital finale to celebrate the winners.

Parades

Parades are usually part of any RAF Air Cadets anniversary but the usual Air Cadet Sunday events have clearly had to be postponed – although some went ahead digitally. Nevertheless, enterprising volunteers across the UK have mustered and many intend parades in the summer months as COVID restrictions lift.

Amongst those is the London & South East Region parade through the streets of London to St Clement Danes Church on The Strand. Good luck to all cadets and volunteers taking part.

The first cadets

Today the RAF Air Cadets comprises two uniformed youth organisations, the Air Training Corps and the Combined Cadet Force (RAF).

It is a diverse organisation for young men and women aged 12-19 and with adult volunteers aged 20 plus (21 plus in the ATC).

But the origins of the cadets go way back to the 19th Century...

In 1859 several schools around the country began forming armed, uniformed units of adults and older boys with the purpose of protecting Britain in the event of an attack from overseas.

By the turn of the century there were units in more than 100 schools and, in 1908, the units were re-titled the Officer

Training Corps (OTC). Many ex-cadets and officers served with distinction during the First World War.

By the 1930s the beginnings of today's CCF (RAF) appeared in the form of OTC Air Sections. In Army uniform, but with an RAF armband, they trained very much like today.

Air Commodore Chamier

It was a simple enough idea. The Second World War was on the horizon and if aircraft were to be used as a major combat strength, then the RAF would need a serious amount of combat-ready pilots and competent support crew to keep them in the air.

That idea came from Air Commodore John Adrian Chamier, now known as the father of the air cadets. He served in the army, the Royal Flying Corps and the RAF in 1919 (not long after it formed). With his love for aviation, he was determined to make British people aware of the RAF and its vital role in any future war.

He wanted to establish an air cadet corps, encouraging young people to consider a career in aviation - pretty exciting at a time when very few people ever got the chance to fly. His experience in World War I, where training time was very limited, convinced him that the sooner training began the better prepared and experienced a person would be in combat.

Air League

So, in 1938 the Air Defence Cadet Corps (ADCC) was founded by Air Commodore Chamier who was then Secretary-General of the Air League – an organisation made up of people who wanted to make the British public aware of the importance of military aviation.

Demand for places was high and squadrons were set up in as many towns around the UK as possible. Local people ran them and each squadron aimed to prepare cadets for joining the RAF or the Fleet Air Arm (the Royal Navy's aircraft division). They also helped form the diverse programme of activities that our cadets enjoy today.

During World War II, with many instructors being drafted into the RAF and squadron buildings being used by the military, cadets were sent to work



on RAF stations. They carried messages, handled aircraft and moved equipment. They filled thousands of sandbags and loaded miles of belts of ammunition. They were invaluable.

By the end of the war, in just seven years since the formation of the ADCC, almost 100,000 cadets had joined the RAF.

Towards the end of 1940, the government realised the value of the cadet force and took control of the ADCC. It reorganised and renamed it, and on the 5th February 1941 the Air Training Corps was officially established with King George VI as the Air Commodore-in-Chief.

During World War II, the school-based OTC Air Sections were absorbed into the ATC. In 1948, the OTC was renamed the Combined Cadet Force and most of the original OTC Air Sections became CCF

(RAF) units. This is the structure that exists today with some CCF (RAF) sections boasting a history of 80 years, having been established at the same time as the ATC and others stretching back more than 170 years!

The organisation has gone from strength to strength over the last few decades. Girls were able to join from the early 1980s, helping to bring more people together to enjoy everything that Air Cadet life has to offer.

RAF Air Cadets

The RAF Air Cadets is the overarching body that includes both the ATC and the CCF (RAF) and is used widely to cover both cadet organisations. It replaced the Air Cadet Organisation in 2010 when the organisation was rebranded by Air Command.

To coincide with our 80th Anniversary, a brand new e-learning training package covering the History of the Air Training Corps has just been released.

This course introduces cadets to the origins of the ATC and its predecessor, the Air Defence Cadet Corps. It also looks at the development of flying and gliding in the ATC, the origins of the activities cadets take part in today and the most recent developments in the ATC's history.

The History of the ATC 'How To' guide No39 is available for cadets on Cadet Portal and for staff on the RAFAC Training Hub.

If you want to delve deeper into the history of the RAF Air Cadets you can

read Horizons, the History of the Air Cadets which was produced by Denise Parker, Head of Media Communications in co-operation with Ray Kidd. The book is available from all major book stores and from Amazon. Publisher: Pen & Sword, cost approx. £24.99. Royalties go to the RAF Air Cadets General Purpose Fund for cadet educational bursaries and for the International Air Cadet Exchange programme.



Special callsign

A special callsign – GB80ATC – will be heard across the airwaves this year. Flight Lieutenant David Webb from Central & East Region Radio applied for the special 'Special Event Station Callsign' to mark the 80th anniversary. He will be communicating across the globe using this callsign for the next 12 months to promote the anniversary and the RAF Air Cadets.

He hopes that cadets and other adult volunteers with an amateur radio licence will also get involved. Moreover, David has set himself the challenge of making at least 80 QSOs (exchange of callsign information) each full day of operation. He said: "The Callsign will raise awareness of the RAF Air Cadets and the work we do. I hope too it will spark the interest of ex-cadets, bringing back some good memories, and from overseas cadet forces."

"In these challenging times when there are growing concerns about the effects of social isolation, the callsign encourages the 75,000 radio amateurs across the UK - as part of the three million worldwide - to use their radio licences to chat and support each other across the airwaves."



By CI Trishia Welsh

Celebrating a Special Birthday

Warrant Officer Mo Merchant is also 80 this year and has spent almost half her life involved with the Corps.

Mo became a member of the organisation 33 years ago and, like so many other parents of children who were Air Cadets, she was recruited as a Civilian Instructor, later going on into uniform. She was no stranger to uniform, however, having served as a member of the Women's Royal Air Force.

Attaining the rank of Warrant Officer, Mo worked extensively as a volunteer within Thames Valley Wing. She was the

first female in the Corps to achieve the role of a Wing Warrant Officer, using her extensive knowledge and experience to assist and mentor others.

Currently adjutant of 2121(Abingdon) Squadron, Mo recalls: "When I first joined the organisation there were not as many rules but neither was there such a huge range of diverse opportunities for cadets. Now cadets can excel at music, choir, drill and ceremonial, STEM, space, First Aid to name but a few, as well as gaining flying scholarships and range qualifications for both staff and cadets."

Royal Air Force Air Cadets are not the only ones celebrating a big birthday this year.

The administrative business of running a squadron was conducted via a paper trail and snail mail. Telephone contact with the squadron, staff and even cadets as well as any other part of the organisation was by land line.

She says: "Working as a volunteer on a squadron now could be likened to running a small business. Health and safety, Risk Assessments, so many forms for approval and, it seems at times, so many boxes to tick.

"The bonus has to be that nowadays so much is done online and electronic



approvals can speed things up tremendously. Cadets can access online lessons and so much more information which can accelerate their progress within the Corps."

Mo's time with the RAFAC has opened up a great many opportunities, working alongside other adult volunteers, all focused on giving young people access to amazing experiences within the Corps.

Highlights include attending many UK annual camps, including Drill & Ceremonial, National Aerospace and as Camp Warrant Officer at the Royal International Air Tattoo for seven years running.

Mo adds 12 overseas camps to her list, places such as RAF Akrotiri, RAF Gibraltar, four in Germany including Ramstein which is a US Air Force Base. She has even turned her hand to crewing on an ex-RN Minehunter where the

cadets experienced all aspects of being crew, including 24 hour watch-keeping, navigation, steering, engine room, firefighting, and mooring, hard work for them but enjoyable.

Cameraderie

Mo said: "All these events have been good fun with wonderful camaraderie, something I have treasured throughout my 33 years with the organisation."

The commitment of time volunteering both in and out of uniform can reap its rewards, often in a tangible award and the chance to do something special.

In 2012 Mo was nominated by a fellow CFAV to carry the Olympic Torch. She said: "What a wonderful day that was!" The following year, 2013, she was on board the TriStar which took part in the Queen's Birthday Parade Flypast. Mo said: "What an experience that was too!"



She has been the recipient of two Lord Lieutenant's Certificates, in 1999 and 2018, and in the Queen's Birthday Honours List 2017 was one of the team to receive the Deputy Commanders' Team Commendation for the D&C 75th Anniversary Camp.

Mo considers she has been truly fortunate.

"None of these experiences would have been part of my life had I not been a volunteer with the RAFAC," she said. "I have been truly fortunate, having met many wonderful people during this time, some of whom have become life-long friends.

"The best thing I have gained from being a CFAV is seeing brand new cadets, often nervous and lacking in self-confidence, blossom and thrive and emerge at the other end as pleasant and well-rounded young people ready for their adult life. That's very satisfying."



High flyer: Alex, the CVQO Westminster Award winner in 2018.

The sky's the limit for ex-RAF Air Cadet

Twenty-year-old Aircraftman Alex Anderson of Newport who himself has Asperger's syndrome, has dedicated himself to raising awareness among younger people about what he calls "invisible conditions".

Alex, a former cadet with 1367 (Caerleon) Squadron, said he was "just blown away" and "humbled" to receive the BEM, which follows previous recognition for his voluntary work including a Princess Diana Award, a South Wales Argus Pride of Gwent Award and being named the CVQO Westminster Award winner 2018. Alex, who began basic training with the RAF in December, said it had been his dream to join the RAF and champion people with conditions such as his own. "I never let a label define me and if I can do this anyone can," said Alex, who recommends joining air cadets to all young people.

"Air cadets is like anything in life, you get out of it what you put in. It helps to develop your confidence and offers experiences and memories that stay with you for the rest of your life. Through air cadets I was lucky enough to go to South Africa which was amazing."

Alex, who was diagnosed with Asperger's at the age of nine and faced difficulties when he was younger which impacted his health, put this behind him in order to help others.

He says he does not regard his condition as a disadvantage, rather something that enables him to reach out and help people in his community. Over the years Alex has also raised money for charities such as St David's, Macmillan Cancer Support and the Ty Hafan children's hospice through a hanging basket business that he used to run, from which he donated £1 from the price of every item sold. He's netted further funds by taking part in fun runs and abseiling from the Newport Transporter Bridge.

All in all, he's freely given more than 1,000 hours of his time, an achievement recognised by an award from the Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations. Flight Sergeant Richard Renshaw of 1367 (Caerleon) Squadron said all at No 1 Welsh Wing were delighted to hear that one of their former air cadets had been awarded a prestigious BEM.

"We tell all our cadets to strive towards any and all awards and qualifications on offer to them both inside and outside our organisation if they meet the requirements for them.

"Without any prompting from us, Alex's desire and determination to find and complete these awards/qualifications was admirable and it was inspiring to constantly have him coming up with paperwork to fill in or people to contact to set him up on the awards."

A former air cadet who is living his dream in the Royal Air Force has been awarded a British Empire Medal for charitable services to people with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

"It was wonderful to read about Aircraftman Alex Anderson's award of a BEM. In his recent years as an Air Cadet in Caerleon, he has worked tirelessly to support many charities, in particular those working in the area of autism spectrum disorder, where he has made an important and lasting contribution. "This is fantastic recognition of Alex's achievements and the whole of the RAF warmly congratulates him on his BEM. As he now starts his RAF service, we also wish him every success in his future RAF career. Da iawn Alex!"

Air Commodore Adrian Williams OBE, Air Officer Wales



A Moment in Time...

Thousands of cadets and volunteers across the UK and overseas celebrated ATC Sunday and our amazing 80th anniversary.

Whilst COVID restrictions may have stopped the usual parades and services, the spirit of ATC Sunday was very much alive and well as enterprising cadets and staff still proudly celebrated the event – albeit in a different way, some reflecting quietly and others with virtual services.

The usual parade and service through London to St Clement Danes' Church has been postponed until the summer and some Wings are making arrangements for special events to mark the 80th later in the year.

However, Staffordshire Wing hosted a special 80th anniversary service online, led The Revd Chris Rushton, featuring a host of cadets as well as The Preb Lawrence Price.

Afterwards, Wing Commander Elliott Sharrard-Williams, OC Staffordshire Wing, said: "This was a very different way to attend our 80th anniversary service this year. However, what a fantastic service it was, led by the Wing Padre with support from the Wing and former cadets.

"Thank you all for your hard work and efforts in making today as special as we can."

In Liverpool, several of the city's famous landmarks turned blue to mark the 80th anniversary.

With the support of the Lord Mayor of Liverpool, Councillor Anna Rothery, buildings in the city centre were bathed in a blue light in tribute to the air cadets.

The Cunard Building, St. Georges Hall and the Town Hall were among those involved, marking 80 years of service. In addition, a virtual service for staff and cadets was held online.



Glimpse of the future

This summer personnel at RAF Waddington will receive a glimpse of the future when a SkyGuardian aircraft, a pre-production example of the new Protector Remotely Piloted Aircraft System (RPAS), will operate from the Lincolnshire station.

The UK has ordered the first three Protector RG Mk 1 systems (three aircraft, three ground control stations and supporting equipment), with the additional 13 aircraft, four ground control stations and support equipment expected this year.

Air Commodore Richard Barrow, ACOS Capability C2ISR, said: "The return of SkyGuardian, which will be known as Protector in RAF service in 2023, to the UK this summer offers an exciting glimpse of the future."

The aircraft will take part in the multinational large-scale Exercise Joint Warrior and will also undertake a series of capabilities demonstrations.

Operating in the UK will help with the development of the Detect and Avoid technology that will allow Protector to fly safely in all UK airspace. It will also permit the RAF to refine the requirements needed to fully integrate Protector operations into Waddington.

Protector is an advanced, medium altitude long endurance RPAS which is set to replace the RAF's Reaper fleet.

The aircraft will bring enhanced armed Intelligence, Surveillance, Targeting and Reconnaissance (ISTAR) capability, including including extended range and increased payload.

"Protector will be able to fly for up to 40 hours in civil airspace, meaning it will be able to deliver an array of military or civil support missions," Air Commodore Barrow said.

It will also be the first RPAS to be designed, built and certified against stringent NATO and UK Safety Certification standards equivalent to manned aircraft, according to the Air Force.

SkyGuardian will arrive at RAF Waddington in July.



Trailblazer: Emma receives her graduation certificate from Air Commodore Scott Miller.

Images by Philip Jones and Crown Copyright

Ex-cadet leads the way

A Former RAF Air Cadet has graduated as one of the first female RAF Regiment Officers.

Flying Officer Emma Graves, 22, from Dorset, knew that a military career was for her and chose to earn her commission in the RAF undoubtedly due to the time she had spent as an Air Cadet.

Emma, a former Cadet Warrant Officer at Bournemouth School CCF(RAF), said: "My time as a cadet was highly influential for many reasons - it not only showed me how great a career in the military would be but also gave me a lot of confidence and made me a better young person.

"One of the biggest things I did, as a cadet, that led me to wanting to join the RAF Regiment was the Air Cadet Junior Leaders Course. It not only taught me about leadership, fieldcraft and military skills, but it also gave me the confidence in myself that I could achieve more than I thought I could.

"When I decided to gain my commission within the Royal Air Force, I once again, wanted to put myself out of my comfort zone to apply for the career which I had only dreamed of before. The

grounding that I had got within the Air Cadets definitely played a big part in making that possible."

Emma is one of 13 Junior Officers who are the latest cohort to have successfully completed the demanding 25 week course and graduated at RAF Honington in Suffolk.

Reviewing Officer RAF Force Protection Force Commander, Commandant General Royal Air Force Regiment, Air Officer RAF Police, Air Commodore Scott Miller said: "The Junior RAF Regiment Officers'



“One of the biggest things I did as a cadet, that led me to wanting to join the RAF Regiment was the Air Cadet Junior Leaders Course. It not only taught me about leadership, fieldcraft and military skills, but it also gave me the confidence in myself that I could achieve more than I thought I could.”



Course is exceptionally challenging and its standards are unrelenting.

"Those graduating today, including our first female officers, have demonstrated exceptional skill, fortitude and resilience, and I am proud to welcome them into our Corps.

"They have earned their right to wear the RAF Regiment 'mudguard' and to join our front-line. Here they will lead RAF Regiment gunners, exceptional men and women, on a vitally important mission to enable the RAF and its Air & Space Power in the face of adversity and threats. Demanding but hugely varied and rewarding careers await them."

Emma is now heading to Scotland to take up her posting to 51 Squadron RAF Regiment at RAF Lossiemouth.

She said: "I am very much looking forward to it. 51 Squadron is a very busy squadron and the location is amazing so I can't wait to get stuck into some adventurous training when I'm not at work."

Emma's groundbreaking journey has come as no surprise to her former cadet boss, Flight Lieutenant Sean Dally, OC RAF Section at Bournemouth School.

He said: "Emma has always put her all into everything she does and the fact that she is now one of the first women to pass the JROC was of no surprise, and

I still expect we will hear even greater things from her in the future.

"While a cadet she was able to juggle multiple different facets of her cadet career with her rarely spending any school holiday not on a course; she performed in the ATC and CCF national bands, headed our RAF contingent earning the rank of CWO and, while doing that, also completed the Junior Leaders course and continued to help them as staff even after finishing the course.

"As a natural leader she was even willing to aid our contingent as a CI while waiting to leave for Cranwell, and has left a huge impression on



the cadets she taught. She has been a great inspiration to the cadets of Bournemouth School and, with this new achievement, I can only see that pride in her growing, and we can't wait to see what she will achieve in the future."

Emma urges all cadets to make the most of every opportunity offered to them.

"Just go for it! If you get the opportunity to try something, give it a go, you will probably surprise yourself!

"And to female cadets, in particular, don't doubt yourself because you want to do something that is male-dominated. If nothing else, me being a female RAF Regiment Officer will

hopefully show that us girls are capable of whatever we put our minds to.

"Don't get me wrong, it was tough and required a lot of hard work, but

“Just go for it! If you get the opportunity to try something, give it a go, you will probably surprise yourself!”

a bit of grit and determination and myself and the other female on course outlasted 20 males on the course!



"When I applied for the Air Cadet Junior Leaders Course, there weren't many females compared to males, but we held our own and we still keep in contact and keep up to date with everything we've all achieved since!

"I thoroughly enjoyed my time as an air cadet and gained so much from it because I took every opportunity I could, and there are so many opportunities out there to take! I wasn't afraid to push myself out of my comfort zone and, by doing so, I proved that I could achieve far more than I had ever imagined I could. I had proved to myself, I could reach my goals through sheer determination."

UK's new Space Command Chief



Air Commodore Paul Godfrey, who joined the RAF in 1991, will lead the new joint Space Command.

The first commander of the UK's new Space Command has been named as Air Commodore Paul Godfrey.

Air Commodore Godfrey, who will be promoted to the rank of Air Vice Marshal, joined the RAF in 1991 and has been a fighter pilot most of his career, as well as a former Station Commander at RAF Lossiemouth.

However, his journey to the stars began when he was a CCF(RAF) cadet at Trinity School in Croydon.

He recalls his first flight with No 1 Air Experience Flight at Manston in Kent.

"You'd waddle out with a parachute to go and get in this little Chipmunk and I do remember the first time I got in the Chipmunk, I wondered would I like flying? To this day I remember that trip and just feeling elated when you got off the ground."

And he credits his time spent in the cadets as giving him the confidence to apply to the RAF some 30 years ago.

Since then he has enjoyed a distinguished RAF career as a Harrier pilot, one of the first operational pilots on the Eurofighter Typhoon and the first non-USAF pilot to fly the F-16CJ. He also spent three seasons with the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight, flying the Spitfire and Hurricane.

Most recently, he was responsible for the planning and employment of coalition air and space power across the Middle East within the US Air Force Combined Air and Space Operations Centre.

Space Command will be a Joint Command based at RAF High Wycombe and staffed by personnel from all three services of the UK's Armed Forces, as well as representatives from the civil service and the commercial sector.

It brings together three functions under a single, 2-star military commander: space operations, space workforce generation and space capability.

Space Command, along with the Space Directorate, will work closely with Strategic Command to ensure they can deliver capabilities defence "needs to operate and fight" in the information age, according to the RAF.

Some of the capabilities to be developed in the space domain include satellite communications, position, navigation and timing, intelligence surveillance and reconnaissance.

"I have always said to young cadets, 'If I can do it, you can do it'"

Air Cdre Paul Godfrey,
Commander UK Space Command

Of his appointment, Paul said: "I am incredibly honoured to be selected to lead the new joint Space Command.

"Having just returned from a role embedded with the United States military, where I was privileged to be able to plan and direct air and space power in support of coalition operations, I have seen first-hand how critical the space domain is and how it underpins not only military operations but broader everyday activities."

Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Sir Mike Wigston, said: This Government's determination to establish UK Space Command is a huge step forward because Space is fundamental to our national security and to our way of life.

"UK Space Command will protect and promote the United Kingdom's interests in space, working with like-minded allies around the world for the benefit of all."

It is envisaged that Space Command will interact with the UK Space Agency, as required, to deliver joint national space capability.



Air Commodore Paul Godfrey has been a fighter pilot most of his career. He was also a former Station Commander at RAF Lossiemouth.



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Award for life-saving bravery

Civilian Instructor Daniel Dotchin who, at great personal risk, courageously went to the rescue of a walker who had plunged 12 metres off the notorious Sharp Edge in the Lake District, has received an award for his exceptional bravery.

Daniel was awarded an Honorary Testimonial of the Royal Humane Society inscribed on Vellum which was presented by HM Lord Lieutenant for Tyne and Wear during a virtual ceremony hosted by the North of England Reserve Forces' and Cadets' Association.

Daniel was leading a group of friends along Sharp Edge - one of the most challenging and exposed ridges in the Lake District and a known accident blackspot - in wet conditions, back in October 2018.

Precarious

After leading the group along two-thirds of the ridge, Daniel was flagged down by another walker, who was higher up the ridge.

At first, the 25-year-old teacher and adult volunteer with 2344 (Longbenton) Squadron thought the man had dropped his rope and wanted someone to take it up to him.

Upon drawing closer, though, Daniel realised the man was pointing down a gully where a young girl lay; wedged between two small boulders, balancing precariously on a few fragile hand and foot holds. She had fallen off the route and slid about 12 metres down.

It's estimated that six out of seven people who make such a fall die as a result and the other one out of seven usually suffer a lifelong injury.

Using his mountaineering knowledge, Daniel quickly sprang in to action and carefully climbed his way across the wet, slippery and potentially life-threatening mountainside.

Distressed

He explained: "As I drew closer, I had to calm a panicked and distressed American Bulldog that was worried for its owner and I could see the female was dangerously balanced on the ridge, literally clinging for her life."

Daniel approached and relied upon his RAFAC First Aid training as he assessed the casualty's injuries.



"I could see she had blood coming out of her left knee, her wrists had been sprained and her body was cramped, due to having to remain still," explained Daniel.

"There was no way of moving her safely so I stayed with her, offering reassurance and monitoring her for shock.

"After a short while, though, she became a little more relaxed, which allowed me to slightly move her to help increase her blood flow and relieve the cramp in her body."

Perilously clinging to the mountainside, Daniel remained with the casualty for over 90 minutes until Mountain Rescue arrived.

Lucky

"I had to move to allow Mountain Rescue to attend to the girl and airlift her, so I climbed back up the ridge to where my friends were waiting and it was then that I realised how lucky we both were to still be alive.

"I then sat with the dog until Mountain Rescue came back to collect it," added Daniel.

He then continued the climb to the 869m summit with his friends.

Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for Tyne and Wear, Mrs Sue Winfield OBE, who virtually presented the award, said: "Daniel was astutely aware he could have easily fallen himself, yet he kept his nerve and remained with the casualty.

"It was an act of exceptional bravery and he is justly entitled to the Honorary Testimonial of the Royal Humane Society inscribed on Vellum."



“It was an act of exceptional bravery”



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The Royal Humane Society

The Royal Humane Society grants awards for acts of bravery in the saving of human life. Awards may also be granted to those who have put their own lives at risk to save or attempt to save someone else. Founded in 1774, the society has been granting such awards for over 240 years. Last year, a record breaking 1,065 awards were made to people whose actions saved 467 lives. The testimonial on vellum is awarded where someone has put themselves in considerable danger to save, or attempt to save, someone else. Each one is signed by the Society's president, HRH Princess Alexandra.



Can you **Hack It?**



It's the final countdown...Teams from around the globe are battling it out in a nailbiting cyber skills challenge.

Led by global security company Northrop Grumman in partnership with government-backed Cyber Security Challenge UK and supported by the US Air Force Association, the team-based competition gives students the chance to test their technical ability and develop the essential skills needed to be a cyber security star of tomorrow

Now in its seventh year, CyberCenturion VII gives competitors a taste of real-life cyber security challenges in the context of this year's theme – space.

A competition spokesman said: "From networking to defence, you and your team will be tested in the threat environment that cybersecurity professionals deal with on a daily basis."



Two rounds are already completed with the third and final round scheduled for next month – after which the highest scoring teams will be invited to battle it out at the grand final.

"We've had fantastic participation," said the competition organisers. "From brand new talent entering for the very first time, as well as impressive scores coming in from the usual suspects. Round Two has just finished on a high with junior and senior teams demonstrating outstanding cyber skills that will not only set them up for success in the third round, but for hugely rewarding futures in STEM, too."

The competition has the backing of the Air Cadet Organisation. Wing Commander Stuart McNeill, Director of Training at RAF Air Cadets, said: "If you have enjoyed engaging with the cyber syllabus, then take a look at the CyberCenturion competition. It's fun and helps to develop teamwork and cyber skills and builds a strong foundation for those who may wish to pursue a career in the cyber security industry."

Cadet teams have enjoyed success in previous competitions, making it through to the national finals.

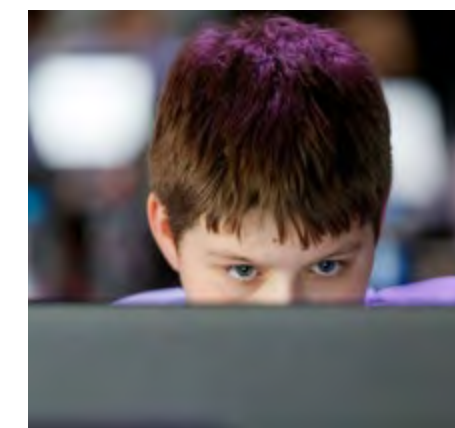
Last year's competition saw 60 young finalists battling it out, tasked with protecting and maintaining a fictional, fully-connected factory with the team from Sandbach School CCF (above) being crowned junior category winners.

“The next generation are learning skills for the future ...”

Team Leader Squadron Leader Dominic Surry said: "Taking part in CyberCenturion is a winning experience regardless of where the teams place in the end."

"Boosting our kids' confidence and ability to perform in a field where there's so much demand for fresh talent is part of our responsibility as adults, and our efforts pay off as soon as you hear one of your team members describe competing in the National Finals as 'the best day of his life'."

The 2020/21 competition began in November with several, intense qualifying rounds before the competing teams are whittled down to the top performers for the grand finale.



Since the competition began, numbers have grown steadily - from just 50 players in the first year to around 2,000 registrations last year.

Dr Robert Nowill, Chairman, Cyber Security Challenge UK, said: "There is a huge shortage of cyber talent in the UK, so competitions like CyberCenturion are a crucial means of bridging the skills gap."

"We've introduced more than 8,000 young people to the challenges and rewards of cyber security, broadening the reach of the industry and opening it up to those who may not otherwise be exposed to such valuable extra-curricular experiences."

"It's been an absolute pleasure to see so many young people go on to start valuable and rewarding careers in the sector."

Nick Chaffey, Chief Executive, Northrop Grumman UK & Europe, added: "Thanks to competitions like CyberCenturion in the UK, the next generation are learning skills for the future and being inspired to pursue rewarding careers in cyber security. It is an unrivalled opportunity for young people to learn key cyber skills and engage with industry and cyber professionals."



New assistant Chief of Staff joins RAF Air Cadets

Wing Commander Mike Ainsworth has joined Royal Air Force Air Cadets HQ as the new Assistant Chief of Staff (ACOS Support).

He said: "I am delighted to have joined the Royal Air Force Air Cadets for my last tour in the Royal Air Force. I have had a very varied career since I joined more than 30 years ago and want to help shape the future for the next generation."

"My daughter was in the CCF (RAF) section at school and it enabled me to see first-hand the fantastic opportunities we offer young people. I am looking forward to working with cadets and the adult volunteers to take the organisation forward into the ASTRA era."

"I am also looking forward to working with the Commandant with whom I worked at RAF Wittering."

"After many wonderful postings around the world, it has also meant that I can return to Lincolnshire where my Service career started in 1985 at No1 Recruit Training School, RAF Swinderby. The county has a lot of RAF heritage so seemed apt for my last posting and service."

RAF Career

Mike enlisted into the Royal Air Force as an Assistant Air Traffic Controller in 1985 and has undertaken many roles during his successful career.

Like many of our RAF Air Cadets, he was lucky enough to fly solo when he was awarded a gliding scholarship during his first tour at RAF Brize Norton. He operated there as an Area Radar Assistant and as a member of the Service's Tactical Air Traffic Control unit supporting 5 (Airborne) Brigade and Special Forces.

He was then put forward for a commission at RAF College Cranwell where he graduated in 1989 before undertaking a variety of admin appointments in the UK and Germany.

Following promotion to Squadron Leader in 1997, Mike commanded an RAF personnel support squadron at RAF Aldergrove in Northern Ireland and oversaw its transition to a joint squadron - comprising Army, RAF and civil servants



- as part of a wider rationalisation with the formation of the Joint Helicopter Command.

In 2002, he deployed as a Military Observer in the United Nations' Observer Mission in Georgia (Operation BARONET) in a challenging tour that profoundly affected his outlook on life.

Attendance at the Defence Academy's Advanced Command and Staff Course followed promotion to Wing Commander in 2004. During the course, Mike also completed a Master of Arts degree from King's College London. He led a small team responsible for the United Kingdom's military contingency planning for Africa, Latin America, and the Caribbean; Defence College of Logistics and Personnel Administration (2010-12) where he acted

as the programme manager for the College's evolution to meet the future requirements of Defence shaped by the 2010 Strategic Defence and Security Review; Headquarters Air Command (2013-16).

Mike has had the privilege of commanding twice as a Wing Commander. In 2007 he assumed command of Base Support Wing at RAF Leuchars in Scotland where he was responsible for the provision of Air Combat Service Support to the Main Operating Base and its lodger units as the Station undertook a transition from operating the Tornado F3 and preparing for the arrival of the Typhoon FGR4.

During this appointment, he also acted as the Chief of Staff for the Service's largest overseas exercise in 2008 - Exercise MAGIC CARPET in Oman - in which he oversaw the planning for the RAF detachment under command of 125 Expeditionary Air Wing that comprised a squadron of Tornado GR4s, a squadron of Tornado F3s, VC10 tankers, and a Sentry AEW1 aircraft.

When deployed, he was responsible for the provision of Air Combat Service Support to both the RAF detachment and an element from the United States that comprised F16s from the United States Air Force and F18s from the United States Navy. Whilst at Leuchars, he also managed two annual RAF air shows celebrating the Battle of Britain, coordinated the RAF in Scotland's contribution to the first Armed Forces Day in 2009, and commanded the large RAF detachment at the 2009 Edinburgh Military Tattoo.

Mike assumed command of Support Wing at RAF Wittering in 2016 providing home base support to the RAF's specialist engineering and logistic force elements, four flying training squadrons operating the Tutor T1 aircraft, a large number of lodger units, and several visiting RAF and Army units that used the station for exercises. During this tour he also coordinated the Station's activity to celebrate the RAF's Centenary in 2018 which contributed to the Station being awarded the prestigious Stainforth Trophy for the best station in Air Command for the Service's Centenary year.

Mike the Man...

Away from his successful career in the RAF, Mike is very family orientated. Married to Helen, they have one daughter, who is at university, and they live in Barkston, Lincolnshire.

He is an experienced mountaineer and has climbed throughout the United Kingdom, Europe and Canada and has taken part in two expeditions to the Nepalese Himalayas. He holds the Joint Services' Rock-Climbing Instructor and Advanced Mountain Leader (Summer) qualifications and is a former chairman of the RAF Mountaineering Association

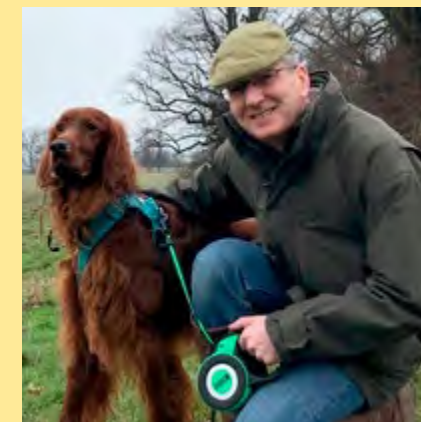
and Joint Services' Mountaineering Committee. He is a member of the RAF Mountain Rescue Service and during his tour at RAF Leuchars took part in many Search and Rescue operations.

Away from the mountains, Mike runs to keep fit and enjoys both mountain biking and cross-country skiing; although his enthusiasm for these activities far exceeds his expertise. A Level 2 British Cycling Ride Leader, Mike has used his cycling to raise funds for the RAF Benevolent Fund, Royal Air Forces Association, and Cancer Research.



Fact File

- ★ He was born in PMRAF Hospital Halton and grew up at RAF Halton in Buckinghamshire, so he has been involved with the RAF for his whole life.
- ★ His daughter was a cadet in the RAF Section of the CCF at Oakham School.
- ★ His favourite band is Marillion but he likes listening to opera, classic rock such as Led Zeppelin and Genesis/Peter Gabriel. He also likes listening to female vocalists such as Aimee Mann and Jewel and UK singers such as Adele and Rumer.
- ★ He hosted popstar Katie Melua when she visited Afghanistan in 2013.
- ★ His house is full of books. He has a huge interest in historical novels as well as lots of books on mountaineering/exploration, cycling, politics, and military history.
- ★ His last read was 'Chastise: The Dambusters Story 1943' by Max Hastings and 'The Cycling Chef' by Alan Murchison.



- ★ He has something in common with the Regional Commandants for Wales and West and the South West... he is a dedicated supporter of Gloucester Rugby Club.
- ★ He is taking part in a major fundraising challenge - read all about it on page 40.
- ★ He has a dog called Perseus, who is more commonly referred to as Percy.
- ★ He flew solo on his very first tour at RAF Brize Norton where he was lucky enough to get a gliding scholarship from the Malcolm's club.

Air Tattoo grounded

This summer's Royal International Air Tattoo, which was due to take place at RAF Fairford in July, has been cancelled by organisers, the RAF Charitable Trust Enterprises.

RAFCTE Directors concluded that the ongoing uncertainty surrounding COVID-19 meant there were too many risks associated with pressing ahead with the airshow. It is the second year running the event has been unable to take place.

Air Tattoo CEO Paul Atherton said he and his team had been working hard during the past six months to explore ways in which the Air Tattoo could take place against the backdrop of the pandemic but, with five months to the event, there still remained too many unknowns.

"I know how disappointed all those who are involved in the airshow will be, but I also know they will understand and support our decision," he said.

"Public safety is paramount, and we also have a duty to protect the future of RIAT. By making this decision in a timely and controlled manner, we will be in a far stronger position to bounce back in 2022."

Spotlight On Service Life

Despite the restrictions of the past few months, Wales & West Region developed a novel approach to supporting cadets and adult volunteers and enhancing their knowledge during the pandemic.

Featuring serving personnel from both the Royal Air Force and the Army, the Region hosted a series of Spotlight on Service Life virtual parade nights (VPNs). Both air cadets and staff tuned in to listen, and take part in, discussions about their role and how they got into the Services.

Many of the featured personnel were former air cadets and talked about how this shaped their future career.

The series has proved so popular that a new calendar of events is being planned for this year.

Ex-cadet lands top job



Former cadet Flight Lieutenant James Sainty has just been announced as the new Typhoon Display Pilot.

James, a former cadet with Durham & Northumberland Wing's 242 (Cramlington) Squadron will hopefully soon be wowing the crowds at air shows this summer in the state of the art Eurofighter Typhoon multi-role combat aircraft.

James was also a flying instructor with 645 Volunteer Gliding School at RAF Topcliffe, teaching cadets to fly the now retired Grob Vigilant. He left the VGS in 2009 to follow his dream to become an RAF Fast Jet pilot.

He said: "It's a huge privilege to be nominated as the 2021 Typhoon Display Pilot and I am extremely excited to work with such a magnificent team."

"I look forward to representing the Typhoon Force and the Royal Air Force showcasing the impressive capabilities of the Typhoon, one of the most advanced fighter aircraft in the world!"

James, currently a Qualified Pilot Instructor serving on 29 Squadron, the Typhoon Operational Conversion Unit, takes over as display pilot from Flt Lt Dean Rogers who was also a former air cadet!

Every Poppy Counts

This year's Poppy Appeal may have been different from other years but cadets and staff were still able to take part and show their support.

Flight Lieutenant Karl Nicholson, the regional radio officer for Wales and West and Sergeant Luke Ford, the training officer for 187 (City of Worcester) Squadron, joined a virtual community of fundraisers across the UK.

The pair decided to walk 111 miles, carrying an 11kg weight, and timed it to finish at the war memorial in Worcester Cathedral's grounds as the nation remembered the fallen with the two minutes' silence at 11am on November 11th.

Their #everypoppycounts challenge has raised over £2,000 for The Royal British Legion.



Flt Lt Karl Nicholson said: "We completed successfully our 111 mile challenge with 10 minutes to spare! We would like to thank everyone for their support. Every wave, horn beep and smile really helped us on our journey - especially in the cold and wet. We couldn't have done it without you."

An Evening with Chief of the Air Staff

A very special virtual parade night with the Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Sir Mike Wigston, was the highlight of the online Spotlight on Service Life event.

Hosted by Wales and West Region, the VPN was part of a continuing programme of service engagement where air cadets and adult volunteers from the Region tune in to listen and talk to members of the Royal Air Force, Army and the Royal Navy, many of whom were air cadets themselves.

Group Captain Roger Simon, Regional Commandant Wales and West, said: "I was delighted to host the Chief of the Air Staff as he joined cadets and staff from our Region and across the wider RAFAC organisation."

"We were able to hear first hand of his vision for the next generation Air Force and of the exciting future for the Royal Air Force. It was also a delight to hear of his experiences as an air cadet in North Wales and how his time in the Air Training Corps assisted him on his journey to the top of the Royal Air Force."

"The Chief of Staff also answered a mix of questions across a wide range of topics including his national rugby affiliations. He was also, delightfully, surprised when we showed him some photographs of his time on 1557 (Friers School) Squadron, leading to him speaking to the current Commanding Officer of that squadron. This was a unique opportunity to engage with the Chief of the Air Staff and was enjoyed by all who took part."



Wingman gets £30m boost

Plans for a fleet of uncrewed fighters designed to fly at high speed alongside RAF Typhoons and F-35 Lightnings have been unveiled.

Belfast-based firm Spirit AeroSystems has landed a £30 million three-year deal to design prototypes of the aircraft, dubbed 'Loyal Wingman', which the RAF hopes will be supporting combat operations by 2030.

The new combat air platform, the first to be able to target and shoot down enemy aircraft and survive against surface to air missiles, is

being developed alongside the RAF's Tempest fighter.

Revolutionary

Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Sir Mike Wigston, said: "We're taking a revolutionary approach, looking at a game-changing mix of swarming drones and uncrewed fighter aircraft alongside piloted fighters, like Tempest, that will transform the combat battlespace in a way not seen since the advent of the jet age."

The deal with Spirit is seen as a boost for Northern Ireland's defence industry and will safeguard more than 100 jobs.

Defence Minister Jeremy Quin said: "This is a great win for the Northern Ireland defence industry and will showcase some of the most pioneering engineering work currently being undertaken in the UK."

"The £30 million project will accelerate the development of the UK's future air power by delivering cutting edge uncrewed aircraft, maintaining our position as a world leader in emerging technologies."

The Cockpit of the Future

Cadet Corporal Sam Aleksander of 229 (Farnham) Squadron has taken top spot in an exciting competition to design an aircraft cockpit of the future.

The competition was launched by BAe Systems who are part of Team Tempest – one of the UK's largest science and technology projects to deliver the next generation combat aircraft.

Cadets were challenged to design or develop something that could be used in the cockpit to improve performance.

“This is your opportunity to demonstrate your vision of a future technology.”

Launching the competition, Wing Commander Nick Weston, RAFAC STEM coordinator, said: “We are at the beginning of a design and development adventure which will see Tempest fly for more than 60 years.

“This is your opportunity to demonstrate your vision of a future technology.”

Sixteen-year-old Sam, who has been a cadet for three years, won the competition with his entry detailing how colour psychology could help pilots understand information more quickly – an ingenious idea.

He entered the competition for something to ‘test his brain’ during lockdown.



He said: “It was because the Tempest is super advanced, they thought of everything. I wanted to find something that people might not have thought of. I like coming up with concepts.”

The idea of colour psychology came from his GCSE DT project. He said: “I was looking at how to create a welfare area within my school and was looking at colour psychology and how colours will affect the brain – someone’s mood and personality.”

Sam found out about his success in the competition after a long train journey back from school. He was tired but his Mum said: “You need to check your emails.”

After initially scrolling past the message, he got to the line in bold saying ‘Winner: Sam Aleksander of 229 Squadron’.

He said: “I had a great grin on my face and as soon as I read that I was up and energetic. It was really exciting – I was really happy.”

Sam is now looking forward to his prize trip to BAe Warton to see the Tempest team in action.

He is keen to see the processes involved in developing state-of-the-art technology and how the different teams interact.



Tempest The Next Generation

Tempest is the RAF's brand new, next generation combat aircraft, coming into service from 2035.

Launched in 2018, Team Tempest – a group of ambitious industry partners – is working with the Ministry of Defence on the £1.9-billion Combat Air System (FCAS) project.

Once developed, the combat aircraft will replace the Typhoon.

These pioneering companies will bring new innovations and designs, enabling Team Tempest to carry on developing ground-breaking concepts and technologies that will guarantee combat dominance in the air.

The alliance is quickly gaining recognition for its work and notched up a world first within two years of launching

by designing a generator that delivers unprecedented levels of electrical power.

Defence Secretary Ben Wallace recently confirmed seven new companies had signed agreements to collaborate on Team Tempest.

He said: “They will bring the ambition, invention and expertise that will deliver the breakthroughs we will depend on for decades to come.

“These pioneers will strengthen our ability to develop a next generation aircraft and allow us to continue making vital contributions to UK, European and global security.”

The companies who have signed a partnership are: GEUK, GKN, Collins Aerospace, Martin Baker, QinetiQ, Bombardier and Thales UK, along with UK universities and SMEs.

Since its creation two years ago, Team Tempest has already employed more than 1,800 highly skilled engineers and programmers – set to increase to 2,500 by next year.

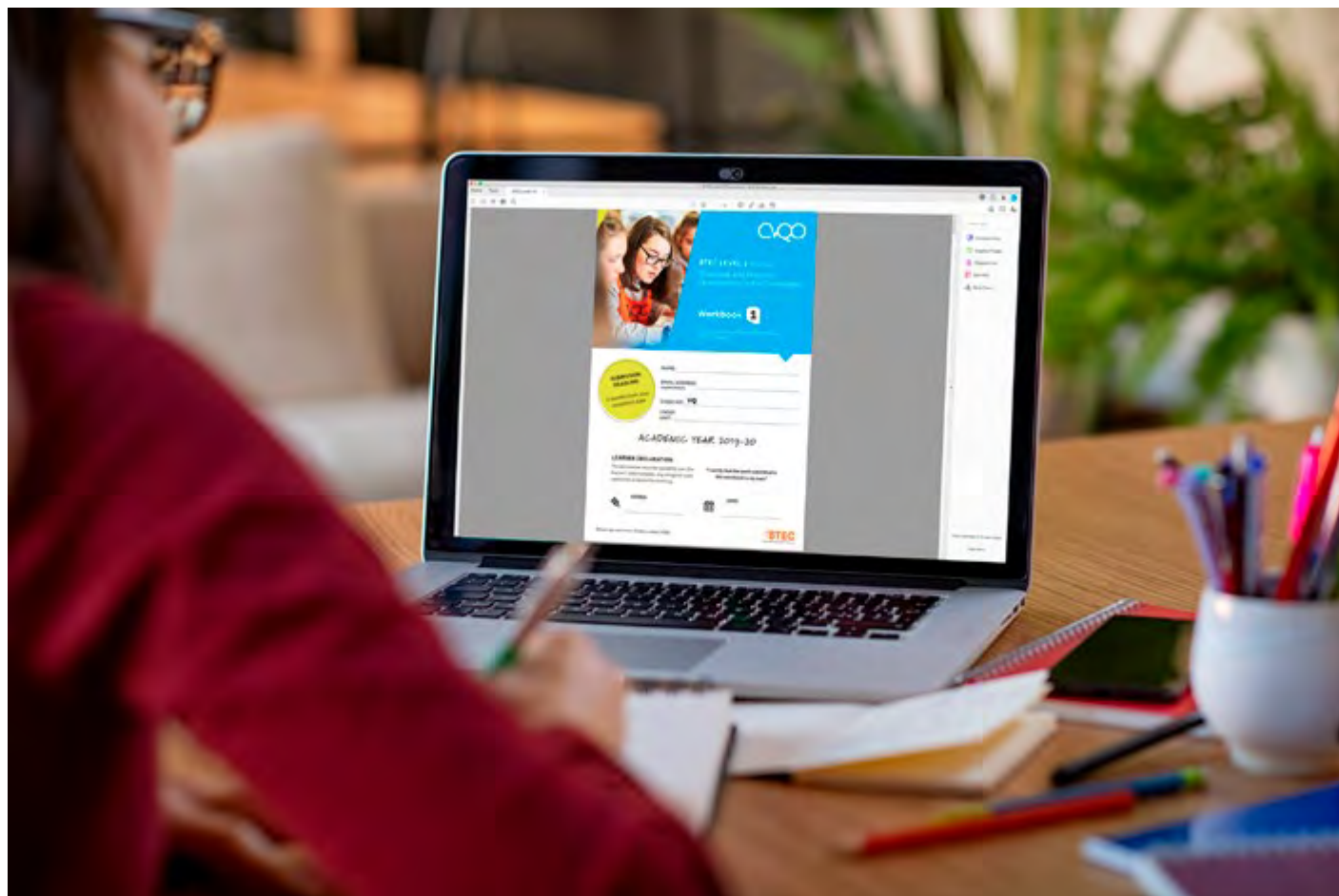
The new members of Team Tempest will join forces on established projects and development work with core members

BAE Systems, Leonardo UK, MBDA UK, Rolls-Royce and the Ministry of Defence, working together to develop game-changing technologies at pace and in an affordable manner.

Defence Minister Jeremy Quin said: “Together the companies will develop more than 60 technology prototypes and demonstration activities. New processes will also deliver technology and intellectual property in half the time and at significantly lower cost than previous complex combat air programmes.”

Dave Holmes, Manufacturing Director for BAe Systems' Air sector, said: “We are delighted to have signed the first phase of these new agreements, which are transforming our traditional relationships with partners.

“We are seeking opportunities to widen the Team Tempest project and bring in the very best of UK capability and expertise, from both inside and outside of defence. They will work alongside us as we seek to develop the generation-defining combat air capability which will help safeguard the security of our nation and our allies to the end of this century.”



Locked down - Skilled Up!

Lockdown has been an enormous challenge for us all. For many cadets, though, this difficult and complex time has been turned into an opportunity to gain qualifications.

Harvey Baker from 303 (Worksop) Squadron (right) worked on his BTEC Level 2 in Teamwork and Personal Development in the community with CVQO during lockdown.

He found the combination of electronic workbooks and Zoom tutorials gave him something positive to focus on and knows the qualification will help him with his future plans.

Harvey managed to fit in the online sessions alongside the school work he also had to complete during the day.

He said: "I never felt like I was falling behind in school as a result of attending these CVQO sessions. They rarely exceeded two hours in duration, during which I had plenty of time to complete my theory work with the full support of my educators."

"The work sat alongside my other studies very well and often required me to recount my team working and leadership experiences, or to recall the skills these experiences taught me."

What have been the most useful aspects of the BTEC Level 2 qualification?

"It has been very useful for me to gain an insight into how different leadership and teamwork skills are used by the



military and emergency services. This is important for not just appreciating their impressive dedication and ability, but for determining how I would fare in the situations these people face.

"The qualification has also been useful for me to evaluate my teamwork abilities and see how they can be improved for when face-to-face activity resumes on squadron. This will make me a better Cadet Sergeant, and (fingers crossed) increase my likelihood of promotion."

How do you think the qualification will help you in your future plans?

"I intend to join the RAF in the future, and with this CVQO qualification, I have already proved my leadership and teamworking potential. This will put me at a great advantage above my peers when applying, and during training, as I am already equipped with the basic skills and knowledge necessary to succeed."

Why do you think young people should make the most of qualifications like this?

"Many people already have the skills and experience necessary to cover a large portion of the content of this course, but aren't professionally accredited for it. This qualification, and others like it, are great at recognising the things people have already done that are demonstrative of their abilities."

"This means that often, all you need to do to gain these awards is a few hours of theory, as the practical elements have been completed through your life experiences."

How do you see this qualification sitting alongside the others you have gained?

"While my GCSEs are reflective of my academic ability, this CVQO award is prominent for being the most telling about my social skills and vocational qualities. I find these qualities to be of equal importance when entering higher education and the workplace, so it is important to be able to prove to employers that you have these skills. This award is a perfect way of conveying these capabilities; in some ways even more so than traditional academic qualifications."

With so much disruption to school and college, how do you think achieving the BTEC virtually has helped your mental health and wellbeing?

"I found it very refreshing to finally verbally communicate in an educational environment, after many months of lockdown, and with school still shut. The stimulating theory lessons, delivered via Zoom, were not overwhelming at all, and I always felt supported and motivated by my educators. These weekly sessions helped provide a smooth transition back into education."

Cadets achieve virtual awards

Over summer, the restrictions on parading face to face did not stop six cadets from 2505 (Bishop Auckland) Squadron from developing their knowledge and understanding of leadership and teamwork.

With the support of their volunteer staff, over a number of weekends the cadets studied online and attended interactive workshops to complete a CVQO-led ILM Level 2 Award in Effective Team Member Skills.

Flight Lieutenant Ian Pepper, Officer Commanding 2505 Sqn, said: "Our learners really enjoyed the experience of studying the ILM Level 2 during lockdown. They gained a sense of sharing study and achievement, especially in these difficult times when the RAFAC has been able to offer so much support to these young people."

"One cadet has already used the qualification to help them gain a place to study at college. I think the qualification provides a great tool to develop both the knowledge and understanding of teamwork."



"Thanks to CVQO the Level 2 ETMS complements the range of courses and opportunities offered across RAFAC by providing formal and transferrable recognition of their hard work."

Sixteen-year-old Cadet Morgan Lees (above) said: "The CVQO ILM Level 2 Award was a great experience, with lessons about leadership and the management of teams and some great sessions and skills for later life. I would encourage others to sign up and do the same."

Despite the national lockdown, there are many opportunities available from CVQO to take advantage of the situation and gain some new skills.

They have adapted some of their most popular qualifications for online study to ensure that they can be accessed and completed by anyone, anywhere at anytime.

Enrolments are currently open for the 20/21 BTEC Level 2 academic year – with a few small changes.

In the absence of face-to-face training, CVQO is offering virtual BTEC sessions using Zoom for

groups of cadets, supported by their Vocational Qualifications Officers.

Learners can expect to study units including teamwork and communication skills; employment skills; career planning; health and fitness; adventurous activities and volunteering.





Atlantic Solo Challenge

One former female cadet. One boat.
3,000 miles of unpredictable ocean.
Raising £80,000 for the RAF Air Cadets.



That's the incredible challenge Emma Wolstenholme – a former cadet with 352 (Burnley) Squadron – has set herself in this the RAFAC's 80th Anniversary year.

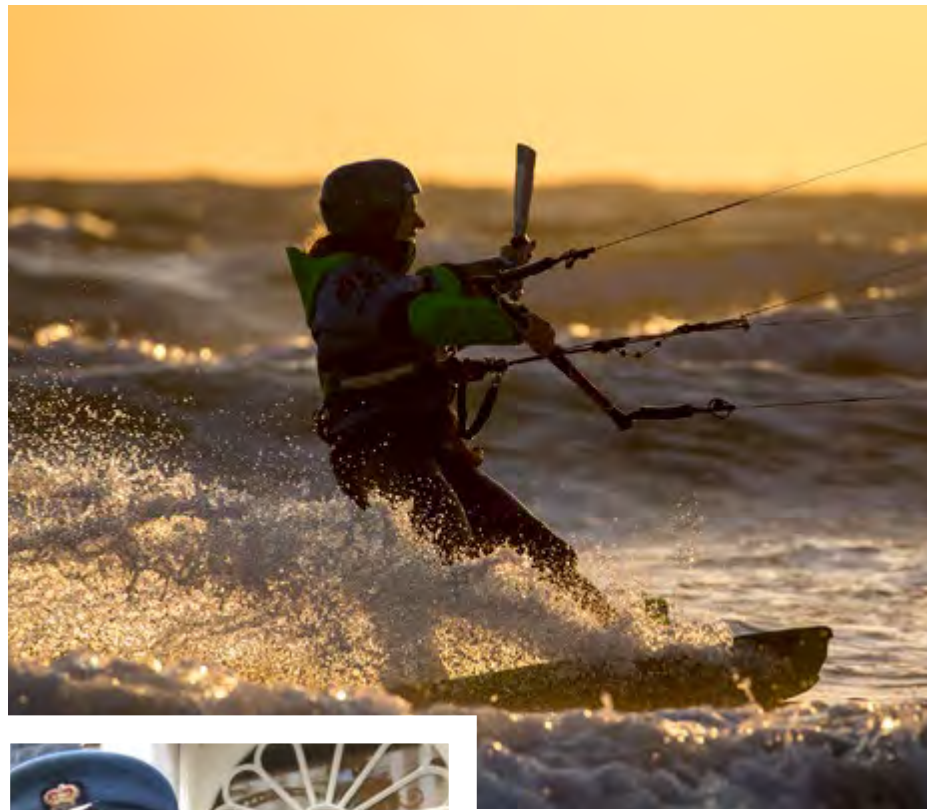
And not only is Emma facing an epic solo row across miles of unforgiving ocean, she is also hoping to achieve this incredible journey in a record time – breaking the current World Record held by Kiko Matthews of 49 days, 7 hours and 15 minutes.

With no outside assistance, Emma knows this will be one of the toughest challenges she has ever tackled when she leaves the Canary Islands next February bound for the Caribbean.

She can expect a constant battle of blisters, salt sores and sleep deprivation from around the clock rowing shifts – all the while facing the raw power of the world's second largest ocean.

Undaunted, Emma believes she is up to the physical and mental challenge.

She said: "My mental strength and self-belief stem from when I was a cadet and went on regular adventurous training activities, such as shooting, kayaking, scuba diving and windsurfing.



"The team spirit of the cadets sometimes spurred me to push myself to the edge...literally, when I abseiled face-first over a cliff and, half-way down slipped on wet rock, dangling upside-down.

"But it was the calm manner of the instructors who showed me that I can deal with any situation, no matter how scary it may seem, and so I continued abseiling safely to the bottom.

"I believe this attitude will stand me in good stead when faced with 40 foot waves in the Atlantic Ocean, knowing that I can deal with anything as long as I remain calm and follow all the right drills."

This adventurous nature, inspired by the cadets, prompted Emma to join the RAF and she soon found the RAF's Bobsleigh team, driving the bobsleigh for two seasons.

She then swapped to skeleton bobsleigh (often described as head-first on a tea tray!), winning the RAF and Inter-Service Championships for five years and representing Great Britain in the Europa Cup.

Seeking more adventure, Emma discovered the exhilarating sport of kitesurfing, where she realised she could fly through the air without an engine and reach heights of over 10m.

Emma was hailed as one of the RAF100 'Heroes' for her organisation of the RAF Kitesurfing team's participation in the Baton Relay, carrying the RAF100 baton 60km along the west coast of the Outer Hebrides.

Her route into the RAF began after gaining a flying scholarship and achieving her first solo the day after her 17th birthday. Whilst at university, she joined



Manchester and Salford University Air Squadron, which shares its base at RAF Woodvale with 10 AEF.

Graduating with a Bachelor of Science degree, she joined the RAF as a Weapons Systems Officer, later transferring to become a Training Officer.

She had various exciting tours, including Afghanistan, where she coordinated the media for Op HERRICK 19/20. This included a visit by the then Prime Minister David Cameron and saw her on the last helicopter out of Camp Bastion.

Emma's favourite tour, on promotion to Squadron Leader, was Officer Commanding the Defence Survival, Evasion, Resistance and Extraction (SERE) Training Squadron.

She said: "Managing a large team of instructors from the RAF, Navy, Army and



even Special Forces, I gained a real love for survival and especially natural navigation.

"I know my knowledge of the constellations will come in handy when rowing at night in the Atlantic Ocean," she added.

Over the next 12 months, there's many hours of training. Emma aims to row the length of Loch Lomond, row from Fort William to Inverness – and might climb Ben Nevis again while she is there – and row in the Outer Hebrides.

She hopes to visit cadet squadrons and tour airshows - as much as COVID-19 will allow.

So, what is driving Emma to row 3,000 miles unsupported across the Atlantic? She already holds a World Record - along with 422 others, for her participation in the most number of kitesurfers to travel a mile during the Virgin Kitesurf Armada.



In her words: "It just seemed like the next natural step for me to take. I needed to find a challenge to beat my other crazy adventures such as climbing Kilimanjaro and Aconcagua and doing adrenaline sports. When I saw an advert for the Talisker Whiskey Atlantic Challenge on Facebook, I just knew I had to do it. But I wanted to do it alone. I like to do things my way, and my immediate thoughts were: I want to smash the World Record and I want to give something back. The RAF Air Cadets were the natural choice. And if I can inspire others to follow in my footsteps along the way, then even better!"

To support Emma, go to www.JustGiving.com/crowdfunding/soloatlanticrow and to follow her progress, visit <https://www.facebook.com/SoloAtlanticRow/>



"I first worked with Emma when I commanded RAF Wittering; at that time Emma was still serving as a Squadron Leader and was responsible for the Station's Force Development, which encompassed physical fitness, core military skills, professional training and personal development.

In 2018 Emma participated in the RAF100 Baton Relay, but not by running or cycling between RAF Stations as most participants did, Emma carried the Baton for 60Km on her Kitesurf from South Uist to Benbecula in the Outer Hebrides. Add to this Emma's many years of coaching skeleton bobsleigh, where she represented Great Britain, and it is no surprise that she is planning to row solo across the Atlantic.

Emma is a former ATC Cadet and she looks back on those days with fondness, and she is certain that her spirit of adventure was fostered by the many opportunities that Air Cadets gave her.

I know that everyone in the RAF Air Cadet family will be cheering her across the 3000 nautical miles of this amazing Atlantic crossing, and hopefully we'll be able to track her progress through social media.

On behalf of everyone in the RAF Air Cadets, I wish Emma the very best of luck in this most epic of adventures."

**Air Commodore Tony Keeling,
Commandant Air Cadets**

Hands On!

Get hands on and experience what engineers do in the real world in a new, free online course.

Image: Crown Copyright

In partnership with The Smallpeice Trust charity, the RAF is offering cadets the chance to delve deeper into the world of engineering and build knowledge with some of the best industry professionals and specialists.

The virtual online course in 'Humanitarian Aid Engineering Experience' tasks young people with delivering support to remote areas in need.

Aimed at Year nine, 13-14 year old students, the virtual course will provide first-hand experiences of

how the RAF supports the many challenges facing the world; from floods in the UK, to the Ebola outbreak in Africa, and devastating hurricanes in the Caribbean.

An expert team of Smallpeice Trust education officers, working in partnership with the RAF, have developed the course with a series of engineering challenges that the students will have to overcome.

This will include making an estimation of the equipment that will be required to set up a RAF Forward

Operation Base, designing and building prototypes and tackling budgets. Students will get to creatively solve practical problems, testing their lateral thinking, and explore a range of career paths that could take them around the world.

Engineering innovation impacts on critical situations and can help people to live safely and securely. This course provides a chance to find out what technology development can do, from earthquake resistant housing to drones delivering medicine, and will

investigate how the engineering links with other disciplines to deliver benefit to those in most need.

The online courses, which are replacing the usual face to face on-site training are designed to meet The Smallpeice Trust's mission of giving young people, especially girls, the role models and experiences needed to fuel their passion for STEM-related careers.

Dr Kevin P. Stenson, CEO of The Smallpeice Trust said: "The Humanitarian Aid Engineering

Experience enables pupils to learn about the practical ways the RAF helps countries in need.

"During Covid-19 these remote courses are proving to be a successful alternative to engage young people and help them develop key engineering skills at home."

Wing Commander Russell Barnes said: "We're excited to work with The Smallpeice Trust on this new online course which will enable more young people to experience the positive impact of engineering, as they work

on real-life challenges, all from the comfort of their homes.

"The mission challenges are designed to encourage creativity and problem-solving abilities, key skills not only for engineering but all aspects of life."

The course will run from 6th – 9th April. The Smallpeice Trust was founded more than 50 years ago to give young people the support they need to bring their big ideas to life through science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM).

New Year's Honours

A number of RAF Air Cadets recipients are among those recognised for their achievements and service in the New Year's Honours List 2021.

Huge congratulations to them all.

HQ AIR CADETS CRANWELL

CAS Commendation

Civilian Instructor C.J. Morrell, Regional Duke of Edinburgh Award Officer, London & South East Region.

AOC 22 Gp Commendation

Wing Commander C. Copsey ATC, Officer Commanding Highland Wing, Scotland & Northern Ireland Region

Wing Commander H. Gould ATC, Officer Commanding Sussex Wing, London & South East Region

Squadron Leader K.L. Charter RAF, SO2 Eng - DMilCAM 2FTS

Squadron Leader K. Ritchie ATC, Sector Commander,

South & East Midlands Wing, Central & East Region

Flight Lieutenant D. Smith, AV01 2FTS

Mr K. Phillips SHEF 2FTS

Team Commendation

Trent Wing Multi-Activity Camp Team - team leader Squadron Leader D J Withnall ATC, Central & East Region



Many congratulations too to former air cadet Flight Lieutenant Jim Peterson, the Typhoon Display Pilot for 2018 and 2019, who has been awarded an MBE in the New Year Honours List.

Jim set his sights on the sky when he joined 2464 (Storrington) Squadron, West Sussex as soon as he was able. "I just loved it," he recalled.

During the course of his two years as Typhoon display pilot, Jim carried out more than 90 displays across Europe

and the Middle East and raised in excess of £40,000 for various charities.

He said: "I'm very humbled and grateful to receive recognition for what was an incredible two years as the RAF Typhoon Display Pilot. I had the most amazing team around me and I feel that this is for them too."

"2020 has been such a difficult year for so many, including the airshow and wider aviation industry. I hope that this good news story is the start of many more for 2021 and beyond."

Outstanding Service

Cadet Flight Sergeant Nicholas Amakye from 282 (East Ham) Squadron has been appointed a Lord Lieutenant's Cadet for Greater London in recognition of his outstanding service and commitment.

Sir Kenneth Olisa OBE, the Lord-Lieutenant of Greater London, said: "In these challenging times technology is playing a huge role in helping us celebrate important occasions and I was delighted to virtually present my highly deserving new cadets with their awards."

Nicholas, who will accompany the Lord-Lieutenant and the Vice Lord-Lieutenant on a number of engagements during the next 12 months, has gained several Air Cadet awards, including his Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

Squadron Leader Chris Booty, OC 282 Sqn, said Nicholas "dedication and commitment to duty is second to none and, without a doubt, embodies all of what being an RAF Air Cadet stands for."

Well Done!

Congratulations to 18-year-old Cadet Warrant Officers Kian Williams and Nia Phillips who have been appointed Wing Cadet Warrant Officers for No 1 Welsh Wing.

It is the first time that No 1 Welsh Wing has appointed two Cadet Warrant Officers to the prestigious role.

Kian from 1004 (Pontypridd) Squadron and Nia from 2077 (Pontyclun) Sqn were chosen out of a field of 700 for the post.

Nia said: "To be able to represent our Wing, when the time for ceremonial duties returns, is a great privilege. I am looking forward to working alongside CWO Williams to keep shining a positive light on the RAFAC and encourage the young people in No 1 Welsh Wing to do the same."

New era at Lossiemouth



“This is just the beginning of our expansion and modernisation as one of the RAF's most strategically important Stations in the United Kingdom.”

The first Poseidon MRA1 aircraft has landed at RAF Lossiemouth, the new home of UK maritime patrol operations based in Moray, Scotland.

Touching down on the newly resurfaced runway, ZP802 named the 'City of Elgin' parked outside the brand new £132m facility which houses the pilots, engineers, and personnel who will operate the high-tech submarine hunters.

Nine Poseidon MRA1 aircraft have been ordered, the first of which landed on British soil for the first time in February last year.

Since then, crews have been securing the seas on operational missions.



Station Commander of RAF Lossiemouth, Group Captain Chris Layden, said: "Today is a proud moment for Team Lossie, ushering in a new era for the Station delivering combat air power and maritime patrol operations over and around the United Kingdom."

"This is just the beginning of our expansion and modernisation as one of the RAF's most strategically important Stations in the United Kingdom."

Poseidon is a submarine hunter, able to locate, identify, and track potentially hostile submarines as they operate close to UK waters. Its radar is also able to detect and track surface vessels above the waves.

The aircraft also have a comprehensive communications suite which enables the intelligence it gathers to be passed to commanders whether they are in the air, on a ship, on the ground, or back at RAF Lossiemouth.

54 Squadron have been training new pilots and weapons systems operators on the platform, as 400 additional military personnel will be joining Team Lossie in Moray to fly and operate the nine aircraft.

In total, more than £400m is being invested in RAF Lossiemouth to future-proof the Station and includes the scoping for the world's first digital air traffic control tower on a military airfield.



Johnny Johnson.



Going the extra mile...

Wing Commander Mike Ainsworth will be cycling 5,600 miles to raise money for the RAF Benevolent Fund, the RAF's leading welfare charity.

Mike, the new Assistant Chief of Staff, will be covering the distance both on the road and on a turbo trainer.

Part of Mike's challenge will include a 100-mile ride in Lincolnshire on 15 May. The Dambusters Ride has been created by the RAF Benevolent Fund to celebrate the 100th birthday of Squadron Leader George 'Johnny' Johnson DFM, the last surviving member of the Dambusters' raid.

Mike then plans to travel overnight to Germany to complete a 100-mile cycle on 16 May alongside a team of riders taking part in the virtual Dambusters Ride event. On 17 May, Mike intends to cycle a further 100 miles around some of the crash sites and graves of the airmen that did not return.

Mike said: "I wanted to set myself a big challenge as I'm an experienced cyclist, so I settled on 5,600 miles. This represents 100 miles for each crew member from the eight Lancaster bombers that did not return from the Dambusters raid. I'm also turning 56 this year, which makes my target especially fitting!

"I've been in the Royal Air Force for 35 years, so the RAF Benevolent

Fund is a cause very close to my heart. I grew up on RAF bases as my parents both served and one of my earliest memories is watching The Dam Busters film at RAF Halton as a young boy, so I'm honoured to be paying tribute to those who risked their lives in the Dambusters raid."

"I'm honoured to be paying tribute to those who risked their lives in the Dambusters raid."

Johnny Johnson has given his support to the ride. He said: "I am grateful to have never needed the support of the RAF Benevolent Fund but nonetheless I have always known they are there for those less fortunate than I.

"Not only will this event raise vital funds to support RAF personnel, past and present, it will also pay tribute to the brave men of Bomber Command

who made the ultimate sacrifice on the Dambusters raid and throughout the Second World War.

"Their loss must never be forgotten and it is my hope through this event, a new generation will learn about the cost of the freedom they enjoy today."

"The RAF Benevolent Fund does incredible work supporting RAF veterans and serving personnel and I would like to thank anyone who signs up for this cycle ride."

Lisa Hunt, Regional Fundraiser at the RAF Benevolent Fund, said: "Mike is going the extra mile – quite literally – in his fundraising efforts this year, and we are beyond grateful for his support. By taking part in the Dambusters Ride, he will honour Johnny's life and service and other members of 617 Squadron.

"Thanks to people like Mike, we will be able to continue supporting the whole of the RAF Family practically, emotionally and financially for years to come."

You can follow Mike's progress and sponsor him via his fundraising page: rafbf.enthuse.com/pf/mike-ainsworth. To learn more about how you can get involved in the Dambusters Ride, visit rafbf.org/ride.



Typhoon pilot

zooms into squadron

Typhoon Image: Kind permission of Carl Woodend.

RAF pilot, Flight Lieutenant James Nealings, landed at 2344 (Longbenton) Squadron to chat to cadets about his RAF career and his 'life-changing' time as an air cadet that inspired his high flying ambitions.

However, the special meet and greet with cadets from across Durham and Northumberland Wing as well as colleagues from the American Civil Air Patrol, was achieved without James' feet ever leaving the ground.

Instead, 24-year-old James, who is currently learning to fly the Typhoon,

took part in a livestream hosted by his former squadron as air cadets across the UK adapt to the restrictions imposed by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Scholarship

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

He said: "It was sad that I couldn't visit my old squadron in person, but I think

it is fantastic that the RAF Air Cadets has initiated web-based activities to not only keep the training and interest going but ensure everyone stays in touch with each other.

"I hope that once life begins to get back to normal, I will be able to visit the cadets in person."

James revealed what it was like to go through 24 weeks of officer training at RAF College Cranwell in Lincolnshire before chatting about pilot training.

But it was his current training as a fast-jet pilot that really grabbed the air cadets' attention.

It is, he confirmed, "training like no other!"

"I joined the air cadets because a friend had done so and he came into school one day with a letter saying he'd been selected to go flying at RAF Leeming. I thought – I'll be having some of that!"

"I had an interest in flying from such a young age, which made my dad laugh at times.

"I played in goal as a child and instead of watching the game I'd be looking at the aeroplanes as they flew overhead.

"Being an air cadet really changed my life as it gave me the opportunities to work toward achieving my ambition, with the adult volunteers always supporting and encouraging me along the way."

Inspirational

Cadet Will McDonald said: "It was great hearing James' stories and finding out what it's like being in the RAF and the career opportunities.

"Being a pilot was his first choice, but James told us that he had to re-sit his A Levels to get to where he wanted to be.

"So, if you have the will to succeed, you can, and you should never give up and work hard."

Flt Lt Gary Richardson, Officer Commanding 2344 (Longbenton) Sqn, added: "We are very grateful that James took the time to virtually meet with us and was so open about his life, which was inspirational to our cadets.

"He sets a fantastic example of where dedication and hard work can get you, and for our cadets who are just taking their first steps into the adult world, he is a great role model."



Top Grob: 19-year-old James receives the John Cunningham Bust, awarded annually to the cadet considered to be the best all-round individual pilot, from Air Marshal Sir Ian MacFadyen



By Ken Myers



Flight Lieutenant Craig Mills

First Aid Training that Saves Lives

When Craig Mills witnessed a serious accident he flew into action putting his First Aid skills to immediate use.

Trained by the RAF Air Cadets to administer First Aid, he confidently helped an injured biker who had lost control on a sharp bend hitting a steel rail.

Craig, a Flight Lieutenant with 2195 (Long Eaton) Squadron, said: "It was quite surreal, but I was just glad that the training I have done kicked in and that I was able to help him."

As the first on the scene, he kept a cool head staying with the injured biker until paramedics arrived.

He explained everything he had done to the emergency crew and was able to pass on the casualty's details.

Craig was supposed to be attending a virtual parade night with his squadron and was notably absent. All at his squadron were immensely proud later to hear of his life-saving actions.

His ability to keep level-headed in this high stress situation was testament to the training which cadets and volunteers receive.

Training for all

First Aid training is available to everyone in the RAFAC which comprises both the Air Training Corps (ATC) and the Combined Cadet Force (RAF) – that's a total of 60,000 people at any one time who are in society and able to help if called upon.

First Aid training was reintroduced in 2004 when the RAFAC entered into a partnership with the St John Ambulance (SJA), a world renowned provider of First Aid. SJA deliver training which allows cadets and volunteers to gain recognised first aid qualifications from them.

In addition, the British Heart Foundation (BHF) launched the HeartStart scheme aimed at emergency life support training for all and RAFAC incorporated that too into the programme.

Each ATC Wing was encouraged to take up registration and, as a result, were provided with several thousand pounds worth of resuscitation manikins, videos and training material from the BHF.



In 2013, the Commandant mandated First Aid training for all RAFAC staff and cadets, making HeartStart the minimum requirement.

HeartStart (Blue - Progressive Training Syllabus - PTS) takes approximately two hours to deliver so it is possible to deliver a course on a squadron or parade night. Normally this covers areas such as CPR, heart attacks, choking, serious bleeds and unconscious casualties but due to COVID-19 this has been reduced by the BHF to CPR and heart attack only. RAFAC have introduced a Basic Life Support qualification for Cadet Force Adult Volunteers (CFAVs) which covers the missing items from the HeartStart award until the BHF reinstates the full content.

The SJA Youth First Aid award (Bronze PTS) is a 12-hour course covering a much wider range of situations including fractures, burns, asthma, diabetes, seizures, head injuries, poisons and temperature extremes and is often

delivered over a weekend but can be done on parade nights. The course ends with a formal assessment.

The SJA Activity First Aid qualification (Silver PTS) is an 18-hour course also with a final assessment. This is the course normally undertaken by senior cadets and CFAVs who need a First Aid qualification to deliver RAFAC activity but also teach basic First Aid to cadets.

Many volunteers gain their qualifications through their workplace and as long as they cover the same topics as the Activity First Aid or First Aid at Work, they are accepted by the RAFAC.

Naturally the RAFAC is also keen to have nurses, doctors, paramedics and ambulance technicians as volunteers to help augment First Aid training.

Most cadets and volunteers love learning First Aid because it gives them a sense of achievement and a real life skill which ultimately could help someone in need.

Defibrillators

In 2018, the RAFAC gained the funding to provide two automated external defibrillators (AEDs) to each of the 34 ATC wings, six regions and both RAFAC adventure training centres as well as the RAFAC Adult Training Facility and the national HQ, both at RAF Cranwell, Lincolnshire.

CCF (RAF) are also increasing the number of AEDs available to their cadets.

AEDs are used when someone has a cardiac arrest which is when the heart is no longer pumping blood around the body.

Although an AED cannot fix every situation, in those conditions where it can work, the survival rate goes from 11% to 74%.

AEDs are also deployed to any activity where large numbers of people gather and/or a lot of physical activity is taking place.

In depth training is provided to those who are responsible for First Aid at large events.

RAFAC First Aid Key Facts

- Last year more than 12,000 cadets and CFAVs received some First Aid training.
- RAFAC's partnership with the BHF and SJA allows our CFAVs and senior cadets to deliver the training and assess courses, both organisations freely share their training material.
- Volunteers can deliver the HeartStart course if they have a First Aid qualification but will have to attend a short HeartStart Instructors' Course approved by the BHF.
- Any volunteer can deliver or assess the YFA (Bronze) to cadets, as long as they have a First Aid qualification of over 16 hours' duration and are familiar with the training material.
- There are 168 trainers and 529 assessors across the ATC delivering the Activity First Aid qualification.
- The Combined Cadet Force (RAF) is also developing a similar approach.
- Each ATC wing has at least one trainer and a number of assessors.
- Each ATC wing and region has a First Aid officer who promotes and encourages activity in their area. They are also a source of support to deliver training.
- RAFAC has also introduced a Gold Award for cadets which provides training to become a First Aid instructor: The course is residential and covers First Aid knowledge, instructional techniques, HeartStart instructor and AED operator training and the use of casualty simulation.
- Regular competitions are run at wing, region and national level - cadets and volunteers are faced with a simulated situation and they must respond appropriately.
- Standards seen over the last five years have steadily improved.
- Cadets and CFAVs have received recognition on many occasions for dealing with First Aid situations and on many occasions have saved lives.
- Recognition is provided by Officers Commanding Wings, Regional Commandants and the Commandant Air Cadets in addition to the Royal Humane Society.

Baroness Goldie Presents Virtual Awards

By Sqn Ldr Lisa Claber

Baroness Goldie, a Minister of State at the Ministry of Defence, recently attended an RAF Air Cadet virtual prize giving ceremony for the winners of the Wales and the Battle of Britain competition.

Together with Air Officer Wales, Air Commodore Adrian Williams and Wales & West Regional Commandant, Group Captain Roger Simon, the Baroness praised the dedication and skill of each air cadet's winning entry.

Air Cdre Williams was one of the judges and the originator of this competition.

He said: "I wanted to get the air cadets involved in the Battle of Britain 80th Anniversary celebrations somehow during the lockdown and, at the same time, to learn about the Welsh pilots who fought in the Battle of Britain and the local communities who were involved.

"I have been amazed at the standard of entries and it was difficult to choose the eventual winners."



The competition was open to all air cadets in Wales and gave them the chance to research and prepare a piece of work that fitted within the "Wales and the Battle of Britain" subject.

The judges were Air Office Wales, Gp Capt Roger Simon, Peter Sinclair, Squadron Leader RFCA North Wales and Tim Jenkins from the Guild of Aviation Artists.

The winning Air Cadets:

Group 12-16 years old

Wales and the Battle of Britain History - Research and prepare a presentation on any one of five topic areas

Cadet Emily Harries, 2480 (Holywell) Sqn, No 2 Welsh Wing

Wales and the Battle of Britain Model Aircraft - Build a model aircraft of one 13 RAF aircraft that was flying in Wales during the Battle of Britain

Cadet Luke Unsworth, 1378 (Mold) Sqn, No 2 Welsh Wing

Wales and the Battle of Britain Art - A painting/drawing/sketch from a choice of topics

Cadet Sergeant Mia Jones, 1465 (Gwynedd) Sqn, No 2 Welsh Wing

Wales and the Battle of Britain Literature - Write a poem about any aspect of the Battle of Britain

Cadet Eagle, 1358 (Pontardawe) Sqn, No 3 Welsh Wing

Wales and the Battle of Britain Music - Research what music people listened to in World War Two to keep up their spirits

Joint First

Cadet Kevin Titus, 30F (Llandaff) Sqn, No 1 Welsh Wing

Cadet Corporal Ifan Rhys Hughes, 1310 (Eryri) Sqn, No 2 Welsh Wing

Group 2 17-20 years old (category descriptions as above)

Wales and the Battle of Britain History

Cadet Flight Sergeant Thomas Stenson, 2012 (Caldicot) Sqn, No 1 Welsh Wing

Wales and the Battle of Britain Model Aircraft

Cadet Flight Sergeant O Beake, 1054 (Llanelli) Sqn, No 3 Welsh Wing

Wales and the Battle of Britain Art

Cadet Sergeant Millie Davies, 30F (Llandaff) Sqn, No 1 Welsh Wing

Wales and the Battle of Britain Literature

Cadet Sergeant Harry Lancaster, 30F (Llandaff) Sqn, No 1 Welsh Wing

Wales and the Battle of Britain Music

Cadet Corporal C Young, 1358 (Pontardawe) Sqn, No 3 Welsh Wing

National award for exceptional squadron boss

Flight Lieutenant Graham Dodds, based in Omagh, County Tyrone, has been awarded the prestigious British Citizen Award 'Medal of Honour'.

The award recognises those who make an exceptional contribution to their communities. Graham is one of just 27 people from across the United Kingdom to receive the medal this year and is the first and only recipient from Northern Ireland.

He will be formally presented with the medal and Certificate of Commendation, post pandemic, at a formal reception at the House of Lords.

Graham, who is Officer Commanding 72 (Omagh) Squadron and the Regional Media Communications Officer for Scotland & Northern Ireland, said: "I am extremely honoured to be receiving such an important national award. I am earnestly grateful for the recognition received from those who nominated me and to those who have supported my work in the community.

"I have always been passionate about the importance of promoting good citizenship within society and, living and working in an area of significant social and economic



deprivation, I have been proud to work towards addressing imbalance by teaching, coaching, mentoring and, hopefully, being a good role model to young people.

"It is vital that we all contribute to building bridges between communities previously isolated from each other and, in the current challenging climate, I believe more of us are also recognising the value of simple kindness.

"I'm thrilled with the award, but of course, it's not due to my efforts alone. In particular my thanks go to wife, Nicola, and my sons, Ethan and Alexander, as well as the staff, cadets and community members I have been honoured to work with over the years."



First Online Graduates



The first remote RAF Air Cadet volunteer training courses from the HQ Adult Training Facility (ATF) rolled out in September.

The Senior Non-Commissioned Officer Staff Initial Course and the Officers' Initial Course went online and were hailed a great success.

The first sergeant to graduate was Sgt Aircrew Daniel Abbott, 21. He was a former Cadet Warrant Officer from 661 Volunteer Gliding School at RAF Kirknewton and was congratulated with a virtual handshake from Wing Commander Stuart McNeill, Director of Training!

On the Officers' Initial Course, the first officer to graduate was Pilot Officer Victoria Archbold, 32. She was formerly a cadet from 1075 (Camberley) Squadron, Surrey Wing. She was congratulated on her success by the Graduating Officer and Chief of Staff, Group Captain John Lawlor.

Stuart said: "Each course has been redesigned during the Covid-19 lockdown to allow adult volunteer students to engage online with each other and the instructors through Microsoft TEAMS. This means they can complete the required elements of the course in two days and graduate into substantive ranks.

"They will still need to undertake a practical leadership and a drill course at some point in the future which will also allow for networking and the direct delivery of face to face training to cadets.

"The ATF Team has worked extremely hard to develop the training courses required and the feedback so far has been extremely positive."

New Red 1 aims to 'inspire'



A former frontline Typhoon pilot, Squadron Leader Tom Bould, has taken over as the Red Arrows' new Team Leader.

The 39-year-old pilot, originally from Bradford, West Yorkshire, takes over the helm for the Royal Air Force Aerobatic Team's 2021 campaign.

As Red 1 he will be primarily responsible for all aspects of the display from running the training programme and creating and choreographing a new 20-minute aerobatic show to leading the nine aircraft.

Awesome

He said: "I can remember being inspired by the Red Arrows as a child – the thrill of seeing this awesome, dynamic show of speed and teamwork. It really motivated me.

"That is what I'm most looking forward to now, to have this special opportunity to create a memorable display that will inspire yet more people, of all ages and backgrounds."

Sqn Ldr Bould, who joined the RAF in 2005, completed his elementary flying training as a member of Manchester and Salford University Air Squadron while studying for his degree in aerospace engineering at Manchester University.

Selected to operate fast-jets, he flew the Typhoon – the RAF's multi-role combat aircraft – and during this frontline tour had several deployments

"I've already got plans for big, new formation shapes and other ideas to add – but I don't want to give away too much, just yet."

to the Falkland Islands as well as exercises in Malaysia and the United Arab Emirates.

He was previously a Red Arrows team pilot between 2015 and 2017, in the Reds 5, 7 and 6 positions respectively, and took part in large tours including a visit to China.

More recently, he has been a flight commander on IV(AC) Squadron at RAF Valley, teaching the next generation of fast-jet pilots, using the Hawk T2 aircraft.

Sqn Ldr Bould said he was excited to return to the Red Arrows.

"My first reaction was disbelief that I had been chosen as the next Team Leader, which very quickly turned into excitement then trepidation for the enormity of the job.

"The most daunting aspect of taking over as Red 1 is being able to maintain and build on the reputation that the Red Arrows have forged for the last 56 years.

"I've already got plans for big, new formation shapes and other ideas to add – but I don't want to give away too much, just yet."

Precision

Training for the new season usually lasts six-to-seven months and is well underway.

The team has been practising its signature precision flying as well as trying out some of the new manoeuvres introduced for the 2021 season.

In addition, the team has been trying out its new home. They were temporarily based at RAF Waddington last month, although the famous aerobatic team still practised above their current home of RAF Scampton.

It was announced last year that the Reds will be staying in Lincolnshire and moving to Waddington when Scampton closes in 2022:

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Joshua's Story:

how the air cadets turned my life around

Cadet Sergeant Joshua Nichols struggled at first with being a cadet but he overcame that to become the best CCF (RAF) cadet in the country. He says his story should inspire others to dig deep and take on board everything that the RAFAC has to offer.

Joshua – the winner of the Sir John Thomson Memorial Sword for 2020 – has come a long way since he joined George Heriots School CCF (RAF) in Edinburgh five years ago.

He candidly admits his 13-year-old self was 'immature, impatient and ungrateful' but today, proudly bearing the accolade of the best CCF (RAF) cadet in the country, he is in his first year of study at the University of Glasgow, is a staff cadet at 62 (2nd Glasgow) Squadron as well as an instructor with 661 VGS at RAF Kirknewton and has the ultimate ambition of joining the Royal Navy or Royal Air Force as a pilot.

"I can remember that first year very well," said Joshua. "I had never experienced military discipline and its learning pace before. I missed multiple parade nights, struggled with weapons' handling and First Aid. My lowest point, and the moment my SNCOs are only too happy to remind me of, was when I fell asleep in a lecture!

"I received quite the telling off which, at the time, I hated but, looking back, was the turning point of my cadet career. I asked myself what was the point of being a cadet if I was not going to take everything it had to offer me?"

And from that point on, Joshua took every opportunity that was offered to him.

In one year, he worked his way through Heartstart training, gained his blue leadership badge, qualified as a leading cadet, and finally passed the weapons' handling test.

Inspiration

Joshua said: "This was the year I started to hear about the heights it was possible to reach in the cadets."

Spurred on by hearing about flying and gliding scholarships – as well as the myriad of instructional qualifications available to cadets – Joshua continued with his senior cadet classification the following year, began learning about

radio communications and, after missing a summer camp to RAF St Mawgan due to a family holiday, decided not to go on further holidays but focus on attending camps – "Seems like an odd idea but, looking back on it, it was probably one of the best decisions I made," he said.

The following year, Joshua focused on new goals and "really turned up the tempo of my participation in the air cadets."

He completed his first full fieldcraft camp at RAF Spadeadam, decided to join 142 (2nd Edinburgh) Sqn to widen his exposure to the RAFAC and became a Flight Staff Cadet with 661 VGS.

"Becoming an FSC was simultaneously the hardest and the most rewarding job," said Joshua. "Looking back at the person I was, I'm surprised I was allowed to join, but having joined I now have an amazing group of friends. I aim to attend as much as possible for you only get out what you put in.

Leadership

Completing his Method of Instruction course two years ago proved to be a real "spark" for Joshua. He said: "It made me realise how much I enjoyed teaching other cadets, not to mention how beneficial it could be to my own understanding of a topic. It is one of the reasons I put so much effort into gaining instructional qualifications to teach and inspire my peers."

The following summer Joshua completed the Air Cadet Leadership Course and took on the St John Ambulance Activity First Aid award, which provides comprehensive first aid training and is equivalent to First Aid at Work – a recognised workplace vocational qualification.

"ACLC remains my number one favourite camp," said Joshua. "From the moment I arrived it was everything I loved about cadets: parade drill, uniform turnout, teamwork, leadership but, most importantly, being put into a flight of 11 random people from every corner of the UK and leaving as amazing mates, which is something I have never experienced in any other youth organisation.

"And Activity First Aid was great, not only because I felt confident to perform First Aid but because but I was also

signed off as a Heartstart Youth First Aid instructor. I think First Aid is one of the most important things the cadets will teach you. To date, I have instructed and assessed at my CCF and 1145, 870 and 142 Sqn all within less than a year of me getting the qualification to do so."

Aviator

More significant achievements followed – this time in the air with a first solo flight in a Viking glider. That led to Joshua becoming a Part Task Trainer (PTT) instructor with 661 VGS, which allows him to carry out ground school instruction as well as teaching on the simulator.

At the beginning of this year, Joshua completed the Air Cadet Pilot Scheme at Tayside Aviation in Dundee, giving him the chance to experience powered flight and start building hours for his Private Pilot's Licence. He also took part in the Royal Air Squadron Trophy competition, leading his cadets to first place in drill. That success led to selection for the national competition at RAF Halton where George Heriots School scooped three trophies and were runners up.

Hard on the heels of that success was the exciting 'virtual' Dragons' Den interview process for the prestigious annual RAFAC awards. The competition – usually held at RAF Cranwell – was forced online due to the pandemic.

Said Joshua: "Suddenly, my five years seemed like nothing compared with the collective experiences of this amazing group of inspiring people. Despite hours of revision and talking to myself in the mirror, knowing the calibre of the other finalists, I couldn't have won by much at all. To those who were in that final dragons' den, it was an honour to meet you.

"This award is the culmination of all that I have done in the CCF and the wider RAFAC. I came into the CCF as an impatient, immature, unwilling, and ungrateful 13-year-old but, thanks to the mentorship of the staff at George Heriots School, both CCF and academic, I've achieved everything I was told it was almost impossible to do. I make no exaggeration when I say I owe who I am to the cadets, and I thank the adult staff who let that happen."

Here for everyone

By CI Alan Collins Rosell, London & South East Regional
ASPIRE LGBT+ Representative



LGBT+ History Month is celebrated every February to promote equality and diversity and the RAF Air Cadets is joining thousands of organisations in marking the event virtually.

The annual event seeks to increase the visibility of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT+) people, including their history and experiences. It is also an opportunity to raise awareness of issues affecting the LGBT+ community and support the welfare of its members.

The RAF Air Cadets promotes diversity across all its activities and places equality at the heart of everything it does.

This was emphasised last year when ACP1 was updated to add "inclusion" to the organisation's core values and Commandant Air Cadets released a personal Diversity and Inclusion Commitment via SMS and Cadet Portal.

An LGBT+ Working Group leads on sexual orientation, gender identity and equality for ASPIRE, the RAF Air Cadets' diversity and inclusion group, and includes representatives from each ATC region. They are supported by representatives from each of their respective wings.

Throughout the month, ASPIRE have been speaking to cadets and adult volunteers about people and events in LGBT+ history that have inspired them.

CWO Bel Garrod of King Edward VI Grammar School CCF in Louth believes the change in adoption rules was a turning point.

"A moment in LGBT+ history that stands out to me is when equal rights

were granted for same sex couples applying for adoption.

"This took place in 2002, and prior to this, same sex couples could not have adopted as they could not be married or prove their relationship status. Once this was proved, couples then needed to show that they were living together in an enduring relationship in order to adopt.

"All adoption agencies are committed to equal treatment of all potential adopters, and research shows the quality of parent-child relationships is just the same when children are adopted by LGBT+ couples compared to heterosexual couples."

CI Alan Collins Rosell, who was appointed as the LASER LGBT+ Representative last November, is currently studying a masters in legal practice and takes an interest in laws affecting the LGBT+ community.

"For me, section 164 of the Policing and Crime Act 2017, otherwise known as the 'Alan Turing law', was a huge moment.

"Until 1967, activity between consenting men was a criminal offence. Even Alan Turing, one of Britain's finest minds famous for his work at Bletchley Park during the Second World War, was punished for his sexual orientation. His royal pardon in 2013 opened the door to the blanket posthumous pardons given by the Alan Turing law.



Proud: CWO Beth Garrod joins RAF personnel at London Pride 2019.

"While contemporary LGBT+ rights in the UK have advanced immeasurably in my lifetime, this was recognition that the historic treatment of gay and bisexual men was fundamentally wrong."

Despite this progress, LGBT+ people are still affected by discrimination. In 2017, for example, 45% of LGBT+ students experienced bullying at school. Whilst that was an improvement on the 65% of students who experienced bullying in 2007, it highlights that much work is still needed to provide education and change attitudes towards the LGBT+ community, and the RAF Air Cadets is committed to raising awareness of LGBT+ issues among its cadets and adult volunteers.

In November, ASPIRE launched an LGBT+ Awareness Session which includes information on sexual orientation, gender identity and LGBT+ history. The 90-minute virtual session also highlights what individuals within the RAF Air Cadets can do to be allies of the LGBT+ community within the organisation and signposts to a number of groups and charities which provide support for LGBT+ people, their families and friends.

Units can book an LGBT+ Awareness Session by downloading IBN-053 from SharePoint and following the link to the booking form.

Westminster Award

Nominations for the 2021 CVQO Westminster Award are in and planning is underway for the selection event this Easter.

And, although the Award was disrupted last year due to COVID-19, organisers are determined that last year's finalists should not miss out.

A spokesman said: "We received more nominations than ever for the 2020 award, but sadly, the competition then had to be placed on hold with selection and the summer expedition cancelled.

"The good news is we have found a solution to ensure that no-one who had reached selection in 2020 will miss out. They will join our 2021 nominees for

selection and we will hold a combined event for both years."

The House of Lords lunch, subject to government guidance, will take place in June when it is hoped to announce two Westminster Award winners: one for 2020 and one for 2021.

Unfortunately, the award winners and finalists will be unable to travel to South Africa this year.

CVQO said: "We are planning a truly unique UK-focused expedition in its place that will encompass the spirit, adventure and community-focused nature of South Africa while providing a totally different experience. This is currently in the planning stage but we're very excited about where it's heading!"



New Joint Venture Block

Work started last month on a new Joint Venture Block at RAF Cosford.

An RAF100 legacy project, the block changes the way that the Royal Air Force will be able to deliver STEM activities to young people. When completed, the block will accommodate up to 25 RAF Air Cadets or students who are taking part in STEM activities on the station or at The Royal Air Force Museum, Cosford.

RAF Cosford's Station Commander, Group Captain Gareth Bryant, said: "This will be a real game changer in terms of how RAF Cosford, and our partners, can

deliver future STEM activities to young people.

"Whilst COVID has undoubtedly slowed our engagement recently, this building will enable us to safely support future STEM activities and build on our formidable reputation for successfully supporting STEM engagement in the West Midlands."

Planned for completion by May, it is hoped, taking the current coronavirus situation into account, that the block will be ready and available for use at the start of the next academic year.

Nijmegen cancelled

This year's Nijmegen March will not be going ahead.

Organisers say that the COVID-19 pandemic and the additional measures required make it impossible for them to organise and run the 104th Four Days Marches.

They say that they investigated all possible ways of holding the marches this July but have concluded, "with a heavy heart", that the event should be cancelled.

March coordinator Henny Sackers explains: "We feel a great responsibility for the health and safety of our participants, spectators, volunteers and employees. We cannot guarantee their safety at this time and do not want to expose anyone to danger in any form."

He added: "We hope that everyone will stay healthy and that we can meet again at De Wedren in 2022."

Commandant Air Cadets, Air Commodore Tony Keeling, said: "Such a shame that this major event on the air cadets' calendar has been cancelled, but entirely understandable given the circumstances. "I'm sure our brilliant staff and volunteers will find some virtual opportunities this year, so we can come back bigger and better in 2022."



Air Tattoo 50:

The story of the World's Greatest Airshow

The Royal International Air Tattoo, which this year celebrates its 50th anniversary, is marking the occasion with the publication of the complete history of the Air Tattoo.

The 300-page book captures the past half century of the famous air show, from its birth in 1971 to the present day, and features hundreds of dramatic photos, many taken by some of the world's leading aircraft photographers.

Written by renowned aviation journalist Ben Dunnell, the book describes how a small band of volunteers with a shared passion for aviation - and encouraged by legendary aviators including Battle of Britain ace Group Captain Sir Douglas Bader and Concorde test pilot Brian Trubshaw - went on to create one of the most loved and respected airshows in the world.

Featuring personal memories, the book also includes a complete list of every flying display award winner, interviews with legendary display pilots from across the decades and tales from others involved in bringing some of the most iconic aircraft to the Air Tattoo.

Air Tattoo founder member and former airshow director Tim Prince said: "This wonderful book gives an insight into this impressive Royal International Air Tattoo 'family' which, over some 50 years, has worked tirelessly to uphold its reputation as the best, whilst at times, with its motto of 'it can be done', overcoming some pretty daunting challenges."

Air Tattoo 50 – The Story of the World's Greatest Airshow is available from www.airtattoo50book.com.



Vulcan hangar crisis



A major fundraising campaign has been launched to raise £4 million to build a visitor centre around the last airworthy Vulcan bomber – XH558.

The Vulcan to the Sky charity is appealing to the public to help raise £1.6 million of the money, along with corporate donations and sponsorships.

The charity is reported to be in negotiations to secure a mortgage of £2.4 million for the rest of the costs of a dedicated new home for the bomber.

The appeal, dubbed Operation Safeguard, is to finance a hangar at Doncaster Sheffield Airport.

The permanent hangar would give XH558 a weatherproof home and would also feature an education centre.

The charity's vision for The Vulcan Experience is that it will be a major attraction, housing the iconic aircraft, where visitors will be able to hear and see the story of her history, her restoration to flight in 2007 and the part played by the RAF's V-Force aircraft in preserving the peace during the Cold War.

Squadron boss shortlisted for Women in Defence Award

Flight Lieutenant Jade Brock, Officer Commanding 209 (West Bridgford) Squadron, was shortlisted for this year's Women in Defence Awards for her 'outstanding contribution'.

The annual awards, first held in 2016, recognise exceptional women across UK defence.

A spokesperson for the Awards said: "We are passionate about promoting the value of women in defence. We know that gender balance in security and defence won't happen by chance. That's why we aim to inspire, develop and challenge, to improve defence for everyone who works across it and defence output for all."

Jade was one of nine exceptional women – and the only representative from the Cadet Forces – to be shortlisted in this category, all of whom have gone above and beyond to make an outstanding contribution to their organisation.

She said: "I was so excited and shocked to not only be nominated, but now also shortlisted in this amazing category and my congratulations go to all that have been shortlisted."

Jade took over 209 Sqn four years ago at a time when the unit was struggling and was consistently towards the bottom of the Wing's rankings.

Since then, she has driven the unit forward with her energy, enthusiasm and tireless work, transforming it into a leading squadron offering a fantastic cadet experience. This huge effort was reflected in being jointly awarded the Marshall Trophy for the most improved squadron in 2019.

During this time 209's cadet numbers have been at an all-time high, more than twice the Corps' average, and staff morale has never been better.

Jade's journey with the RAFAC began as a cadet at 1360 (Stapleford & Sandiacre) Sqn where she reached the rank of Cadet Warrant Officer before becoming a volunteer member of staff at the age of 20.

Initially she went into uniform as a Senior NCO, where she qualified as a Drill Instructor and supported the Wing Adult Development Team. In 2015, she decided to gain her commission with the ultimate vision of becoming a Commanding Officer of a squadron.

"I am proud of how far 209 Sqn has come and it is great to see that it is thriving from both a cadet and staff perspective," said Jade.

The staff team now boasts over 40 qualifications between them, a huge increase from just nine when she took over, helping to provide an impressive cadet experience. That is matched by the sterling efforts of the civilian committee whose fundraising has enabled the purchase of a squadron minibus, musical equipment and MTA training kits.

A Wing spokesman said: "In a year where we have faced unprecedented challenges it gives us great joy to share the tremendous success of Flt Lt Brock.



"Although she did not make it through to the final, we are very proud of Jade's achievements and it's fantastic that these have now been recognised by gaining a place on the shortlist from the hundreds of nominations received.

"It is a testament to Jade's commitment to RAF Air Cadets and her devotion to duty as an adult volunteer."



New post for Kathy



Pilot Officer Kathy McHugh has been appointed as the Northern Ireland Wing Recruitment and Development Officer.

She said: "Whilst cadet recruitment is currently paused, I am looking forward to resuming recruitment again this year and getting back on the road to various schools and community events to promote the RAFAC.

"My vision is to ensure that we have a diverse range of cadets and staff within our cadre. I also work to promote the fantastic range of learning opportunities that complement both school learning and the workplace.

"There is a role for everyone in the RAFAC regardless of background, and it is a great way to meet new people and to also have fun."

Aiming for excellence

Cadet Corporal Jameel Joomun of 1159 (Edmonton) Squadron has been selected for the 2021 Under 17s training squad of the UK Cadet Rifle Team!

As one of just 20 cadets selected from across all cadet forces, Jameel will be training for the international Jersey Rifle Association Championships in August.

He was selected for the squad following an excellent performance at the Inter-Service Cadet Rifle Meeting at Bisley, where he won a Cadet 100 Badge.

Stepping up

Despite lockdown restrictions across the UK, Air Cadets have once again shown how they can step up to a challenge.

Cadets on last year's Junior Leaders Course 21, which was cancelled as the nation went into lockdown, still managed to complete a huge fundraising challenge for the John Thornton Young Achievers Foundation.

The cadets came up with a whole range of innovative ideas and virtual challenges in order to complete their task, raising almost £10,000 for the Foundation.

JTYAF was set up in memory of ex-cadet and Royal Marine John Thornton who was tragically killed in Afghanistan in 2008. The Foundation provides opportunities for young people to help them to develop as individuals and fulfil their ambitions in life.

Royal duties

Cadet Warrant Officer Charlotte Smith from 2189 (Calne) Squadron was on hand to welcome HRH Prince Charles on a recent visit to Salisbury Cathedral.

Charlotte was joined by two fellow Lord Lieutenant's Cadets for Wiltshire as the Prince and the Duchess of Cornwall attended a morning church service at Salisbury Cathedral to mark the 800th anniversary of its foundation in 1220.

The three cadets supported the Lord-Lieutenant of Wiltshire, Mrs Sarah Rose Troughton, during the high profile visit.

Afterwards, she said that the event "went extremely well and the attending cadets did us proud".



Picture credit: Antony McCallum, web: <https://www.wyrdlight.com>. Sky extended.

Changes in Scotland announced

Two new Wings are being created in Scotland. Following changes in cadet and adult staff numbers, the Wing structure has been under review for several months to provide an improved model for the organisation in Scotland.

Group Captain Jim Leggat, Scotland & Northern Ireland Regional Commandant, said: "A new structure is being implemented which will result in a more equitable delivery of the cadet experience to our cadets with best use being made of our available adult volunteers and permanent support staff." From the beginning of February, Highland Wing and the majority of North East Scotland Wing will integrate to become a new Wing called North Scotland Wing. This Wing will contain all the existing Highland Wing units except 2521 (Oban) Sqn that will transfer to West Scotland Wing.

Its headquarters will be in the Dacre Regional Activity Centre at RAF Lossiemouth.

In addition, a new Central Scotland Wing will be formed. It will contain the units in the county of Angus and currently part of North East Scotland Wing, 2231 (Forfar) Sqn, 2288 (Montrose) Sqn, 2231 (Brechin) DF, 2422 (Arbroath) Sqn and 2449 (Carnoustie) Sqn and the units in Dundee, Perthshire, Fife, Stirling, Dunblane and Alloa which are currently in South East Scotland Wing.

It will be headquartered in the former South East Scotland Wing HQ at RAF Leuchars.

Both West Scotland and South East Scotland Wings will remain but with a modified geographic footprint.

West Scotland Wing will contain the units in Glasgow, Lanarkshire, Dunbartonshire, Argyll, Renfrew, Ayrshire and Dumfries & Galloway. Its HQ will remain in the existing Wing offices co-located with 396 (Paisley) Squadron in the Army Reserve Centre compound at Hawkhead Road, Paisley.

South East Scotland Wing will contain units in Edinburgh, the Lothians, the Borders and parts of Stirling & Falkirk District, including 470 (Falkirk) Sqn, 867 (Denny) Sqn, 1271 (Bathgate) Sqn, and 1333 (Grangemouth) Sqn which will transfer from West Scotland Wing.

A new Wing HQ is being established at the Army Reserve Centre facilities at Colinton Road in Edinburgh and recruitment is underway for Wing HQ staff.

Gp Capt Leggat said: "It is an exciting time for the Air Training Corps cadets and staff in several parts of Scotland.

"A big thank you to all the staff, volunteer and permanent, who have worked behind the scenes over the last 12 months to make this change feasible – especially during the current COVID-19 situation."

Challenge accepted!

Cadets and staff from 1015 (Horsham) Squadron, Sussex Wing, devised their own lockdown virtual challenge – covering the 1,015km distance from their squadron headquarters to RAF Lossiemouth in Moray, Scotland.

The squadron to Scotland challenge invited participants to complete kilometres, via any non-motorised means, with the aim of getting to Scotland in 41 days – a nod to 1941 when the air cadet organisation was founded.

Cadets enthusiastically took up the challenge – cycling, hiking, running and even rowing, logging the kilometres as they went.

Cadet Warrant Officer Jacob Tasker, one of the cadets who developed the idea, said: "The challenge was initially designed for cadets and staff at 1015 but, as it gained more publicity, we had distances logged by staff from the Wing Leadership Team as well as London & South East Regional Commandant."

Mindful of the COVID-19 restrictions, the challenge was developed to encourage physical activity as well as maintaining a connection to the squadron and wider air cadet community.

"The current lockdown restrictions meant many of us were spending all day online at school," explained Jacob. "The challenge encouraged cadets to spend time outdoors and meant anyone could take part, no matter where they were, with participants logging distances covered at work, on family activities or even in quarantine whilst working abroad."

The challenge was hugely successful, with the squadron travelling to Scotland and back again, logging a massive 2,420km in just 21 days!

Special Poppy Award

Squadron Leader Paul Mathieson, of Scotland & NI Region RAF Air Cadets, has received a prestigious award from Poppy Scotland for a lifetime of dedicated fundraising for the charity.

Despite a busy day job as a Senior Biomedical Scientist with the Scottish National Blood Transfusion Service, and his volunteer role leading all S&NI region shooting skills training, Paul has an amazing record of fundraising for the charity.

This year marks his 30th year and, in recognition of this milestone, Poppy Scotland has presented him with a special commendation certificate.

Paul said: "Volunteering with Poppy Scotland means a huge amount to me and it was a great honour to be presented with my 30 years of volunteering badge and certificate."

Group Captain Jim Leggat, Regional Commandant Air Cadets Scotland & Northern Ireland, congratulated Paul on his award and added: "It is fitting recognition for his first class and highly-valued support in this important area over many years."



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ACM Sir David Parry-Evans GCB CBE

Air Chief Marshal Sir David Parry-Evans, who had a long association with the Air Training Corps as the much respected President of the Shackleton Association, has died at the age of 85.

After completing his pilot training in 1958, Sir David spent the first years of his flying career in the RAF flying Shackletons in the maritime patrol role in the Far East.

He had joined No 205 Squadron, which was equipped with the Shackleton, at RAF Changi in Singapore. He flew patrols in the Indian Ocean and the South China Sea with regular sorties to Borneo. The squadron also provided an air-sea rescue capability from the RAF staging post at Gan in the Indian Ocean.

On returning to the UK in September 1961, he continued to fly the Shackleton with the Anti-Submarine Warfare Development Unit based in Northern Ireland, where maritime weapons and tactics were developed. In October 1968, he joined No 206 Squadron as a flight commander at RAF Kinloss in northern Scotland. In this very different environment, his planes patrolled the Atlantic and Norwegian Seas to track and shadow the submarines and surface ships of the Soviet Northern Fleet.

After an extremely successful and varied career, that included commanding RAF Marham in Norfolk, Officer Commanding No 1 Group,

responsible for the Tornado strike aircraft, Vulcan bombers and the Victor tanker force and later Commander-in-Chief of RAF Germany and Commander of the Second Allied Tactical Air Force, Sir David retired from the RAF in February 1992.

He became an early member of the Shackleton Association and was Vice President and, later, President for a total of 24 years.

In 1996, the Shackleton Association presented a trophy to be awarded annually to the ATC team judged to have mounted the most successful, imaginative and adventurous expedition in the previous 12 months. Sir David was delighted each year to present the Trophy to the winning team.

Squadron Leader Mike Blakey, RAFAC Expeditions Adviser said: "Sir David was a much respected supporter of the Shackleton Trophy competition and it is in many respects due to his enthusiasm and commitment that it has remained such an eagerly contested event for so many years.

"There will be many cadets and expedition leadership teams who will have received the Shackleton Trophy and their certificates from him together with a handshake and words of encouragement.

"He will be respectfully remembered for the credibility he brought to the competition and the spirit of adventure he helped to inspire."

Thank you!

A husband and wife team from 2344 (Longbenton) Squadron have been recognised for their voluntary service with the RAF Air Cadets, with a little help from Santa!

Gordon and Maureen Badenoch were set to receive a Certificate of Appreciation for their combined 60 years' service as Civilian Committee members with a number of squadrons across Durham/Northumberland Wing at a special event last year but, due to Covid-19 restrictions, this never happened.

Thankfully, Father Christmas was on hand to ensure the certificates were wrapped and left under the tree of the selfless couple.

Maureen, 81, became a Civilian Committee member in 1981 when girls were first able to join the organisation and she has supported thousands of youngsters to achieve over the years.

Gordon, 87, served as a commissioned officer before becoming a committee member, a post he has held for over 24 years. He said: "It was a pleasant surprise to receive the award.

"I do what I do so that I can help young people, stay active and meet new people, so I hope to carry on for as long as I can."

Maureen added: "When we opened our presents on Christmas day and saw the certificates, it really brought a smile to our faces.

"The organisation has changed so much since 1981 and it's great to still be a part of it; I still get a buzz seeing the young people achieve and move on in their lives," she said.

2344 Squadron Commanding Officer, Flight Lieutenant Gary Richardson said: "The decades of service that Maureen and Gordon have given is truly inspirational. They are worthy recipients of such recognition and I sincerely thank them."

Boost for F-35 Lightning fleet



A £76 million aircraft support contract to maximise the availability and capability of the UK's F-35 Lightning stealth jets, ensuring they are ready for combat operations across the globe, has been agreed.

Signed by Lockheed Martin and the F-35 Joint Program Office, the Lightning Air system National Capability Enterprise (LANCE) contract will provide additional expertise on aircraft maintenance, bespoke UK training courses for pilots, groundcrew and engineers, and logistical and technical support for the fleet.

It will also allow three new capabilities to come online: an ejection seat maintenance workshop, a facility to fit aircrew equipment, and component spray facility to transfer coatings on to aircraft components.

The contract will also increase the number of flying hours available, alongside delivering important mission planning, training and maintenance capabilities.

Defence Minister Jeremy Quin said: "The Lightning Force forms a key part of the UK's Carrier Strike Group and plays a central role in protecting our interests

at home and abroad. This investment will help ensure that this world-class fleet, and their crew, are ready to deploy wherever and whenever required."

Based at RAF Marham, home of the UK Lightning Force, the investment reflects the increasing size of the UK's F-35 fleet and will create and secure 172 jobs mainly at the Norfolk base.

The support provided by the contract will be crucial in ensuring the fleet is ready and prepared when they sail with HMS Queen Elizabeth on her maiden Global Carrier Strike Group '21 deployment.

The UK currently has 21 fifth-generation F-35s, having received three new jets at the end of last year.

 An infographic titled "Project LANCE: Supporting the UK's F-35 Lightning Force". It features a background image of an F-35 Lightning jet in a hangar. The infographic lists the following details:

- £76m invested** in support services at RAF Marham, Norfolk.
- 172 UK jobs** created and secured, majority at RAF Marham.
- New roles for:**
 - ejection seat maintenance
 - pilot equipment fitting
 - component spraying
- 25 months** contract duration.
- Supporting key F-35 facilities:**
 - Maintenance & Finish Facility
 - Integrated Training Centre
 - Lightning Operations Centre

 At the bottom right, it says "One of the UK's latest F-35 Lightning jets in the Maintenance & Finish Facility at RAF Marham."



We will remember them...

Armistice Day this year, like most things, was a little different. It was still marked across the UK with a two-minute silence, led by Her Majesty The Queen, commemorating the servicemen and women killed in all conflicts since the First World War.

However, at the Cenotaph on Whitehall in London, social distancing measures were in place and the service was closed off to the public for the first time. Around 150 personnel from the Royal Air Force, Royal Navy and British Army were present at the service, as members of the Royal Family and senior politicians laid wreaths after the two minute silence at 11am.

Other Remembrance Sunday ceremonies took place across the country and around the world, including in countries where the armed forces are

currently deployed, such as Afghanistan, Cyprus and Somalia. Over the past year UK troops have been deployed on 35 operations in 30 countries around the world.

Air Cadets from across the UK also paid tribute to those who served, fought and lost their lives. Many remembered silently and proudly at home whilst others joined together for virtual parades.

"We knew this year's Remembrance would be different and have used Laurence Binyon's poem 'For The Fallen' as inspiration in the past to show our respect

and gratitude," said 2344 (Longbenton) Squadron cadet Michael Bewick, 16.

"So, we chose to do a reading of the poem at the Longbenton War Memorial and lay our wreath, just before the second lockdown came," added 14 year-old Lucy Olds.

Michael added, "Taking an active part in remembrance makes us feel part of the community and it is really important that we stop our busy lives to think about those who died for us and say we will remember them."



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CCF cadets at Colfe's School in London met the challenge of remembrance 2020 by filming their annual remembrance service ahead of Remembrance Sunday.

RAF and AAC CCF cadets formed up at the school's war memorial before observing a two minutes' silence followed by the playing of the Last Post and the laying of wreaths. The cadets also paid tribute to a former pupil, Flt Lt Busbridge, who flew Lysanders for the Special Operations Executive during World War Two.

At the special invitation of Midsomer Norton & Radstock Branch of the Royal British Legion, Cadet Flight Sergeant Molly Brown of 2282 (Somer) Squadron placed a spray of poppies before a Commonwealth war grave in Midsomer Norton, near Bath.

The ceremony had been planned since the beginning of this year and was designed to cover 40 graves in nine cemeteries in the local area.

Wing Commander Geoff Wilson, RBL branch president, said: "The original idea was to ask young people from the RAF Air Cadets as well as other youth groups to lay a poppy spray on each grave but the pandemic meant we had to change our plans."

Molly said: "It was an honour to be asked to dress the grave on behalf of the RAF Air Cadets during this difficult time. We will be forever grateful to those who so bravely put their lives on the line for us and we will remember them."

St George's Academy in Sleaford, Lincolnshire, unable to hold its normal Remembrance Day Parade, was determined not to leave the day without recognition.

Plans were put in place to install a poppy waterfall in the school campus.

Every student in the Academy was invited to craft a poppy to contribute. Students were able to personalise their poppy with the name of a loved one they wanted to remember while some wanted to pay respects to the fallen animals and produced purple poppies which were also displayed.

With the help of the CCF and sixth form art students, the waterfall was assembled and displayed.

Merseyside Wing Air Cadets were also determined that COVID-19 restrictions would not prevent them marking Remembrance Sunday and Armistice Day.

As well as featuring in videos produced to the support the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal, the Wing launched a Remembrance competition inviting cadets to submit or produce a photograph, picture, poem or video to commemorate the occasion.

The winners were selected on Armistice Day with congratulations going to Cadet Corporal Tristan Paul of 2359 (Woolton) Squadron for his poem, Poppies, and to Cadet Lexie Kirkham of 306 (Runcorn) Squadron for her image of the poppy wreath that she designed and made herself.

Poppy - tormentor of his dreams
Ah, distinctly he was chatting
All my soul within me spitting
He craved the splendid, sitting splitting
The enemy were pitting, quitting and omitting.

Deep into that darkness greeting
All his soul within him depleting
And so, I came gently thudding
The enemy were spudding, retreating - heating
Back into his memories gawking.

That moment his soul grew glancing
All his soul within him advancing
Long he stood there interacting, lancing
I was ordered to go about prancing.

Poppy - tormentor of my dreams
All my feelings deeply sinking
My mind within me drinking
I await the day my friend comes rising
The day I wish I was accepting.

Deep into that darkness crying
My soul within me drowning
And so, he fought heroically
How the enemy spoke such poetry.

She was oh so noble
The days at which she was global.

Screams, Cries, Moans
The painful sound of war lives on.

Britain, lest we forget.



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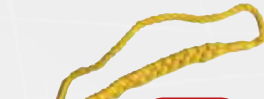
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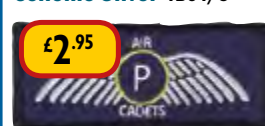
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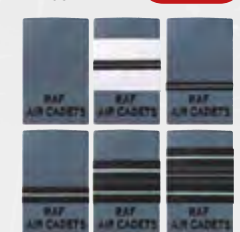
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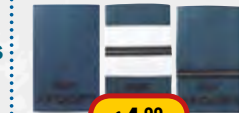
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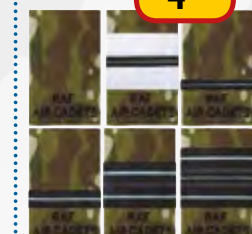
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