



Officer in Charge: WO P. Camp

### **In this Issue:**

Cadet 150

Annual inspection

Page 2

2009 Christmas Party

Cadet of the Month

Achievements

The Civ Com

Page 3

New Cadets

For your  
information

Squadron Day Walk

Page 4

Staff

General Info

Thinking ahead



### **Welcome to first 1242squadron newsletter!**

The aim of our newsletter is to make people more aware of the day to day running of the squadron. Articles will be written by staff and cadets, and will contain things from exam results to summer camps.

We hope you enjoy reading through and if you have any comments, suggestions (or complaints!) feel free to get in touch.

#### **Cadet 150**

This year cadet forces in the UK celebrate their 150<sup>th</sup> year in existence.

As you may already know the RAF was not formed until 1918 and the ATC not till much later in 1941. But we are still taking part in the celebrations. These take the form of two parades in Rochester one of which will be at the cathedral. We will also be taking part in various other smaller events through out the year.

Did you know that the ATC grew out of an organisation called the Air Defence Cadet Corps. Its aim was to attract young men who had an interest in aviation and prepare them for joining the RAF or the Fleet Air Arm. The ATC as we know it came into being on the 5th of February 1941. During the WW2 cadets worked on RAF stations filling sandbags and loading belts of ammunition.

#### **Annual Inspection 30/04/10 7pm - 9pm**

Annual inspection is a chance for the cadets on the squadron to celebrate their achievements and show off a bit. Cadets will be presented with awards for their efforts through out the year and will be able to give presentations on the things they enjoy doing whilst at the squadron. We would urge as many parents, family members and friends as possible to attend, the more the merrier!

## Recent Events

### 2009 Christmas Party

Although now a distant memory, the 1242 Christmas party was big success. Along with 312 Canterbury squadron we all travelled down to the new bowling alley at St Georges place in Canterbury and had a really good time.

The level of competition was high, and as a result the cadets and staff have forged new links with 312sqn, which have already led to an arrangement where once a month they will come to our range so we can shoot with them.

The night was ended at their squadron building with big helpings of fish and chips for everyone and a minibus ride back to Faversham.



### Cadet of the Month and Achievements

**Cadet of the month** is administered by a points system, based on attendance, punctuality, uniform, weekend activities and general behaviour.

The Cadet of the month for February is: Corporal Joe Keel

**Congratulations** are in order for the following cadets for passing their exams:

#### Leading cadet

Cpl. Jess Valentine

Cdt. Max Valentine

Cdt. Jess Stammers

Cdt. Alice Maw

#### Senior cadet

Cdt. Dom Mallett

#### Staff cadet part1

Cpl Tom Marnes

Cpl Lachlan Bennett

**Congratulations** are also in order for Cdt F/S Nick Dewey who was promoted from Sergeant to Flight Sergeant on the 12<sup>th</sup> of January

### The Civilian Committee

The 'Civ Com' has the unenviable task of raising money for the squadron, because things like the minibus are not funded by the Ministry Of Defence. They help organise our participation in things like the hop festival which can raise up to £500 for the squadron in just one weekend! Our committee is mainly made of the parents of cadets past and present, they meet every other month at the squadron building and anyone is welcome to join

## New Cadets

The intake of cadets in the autumn of last year has given the squadron a big boost in numbers, with 6 cadets currently undergoing their first class cadet training. They have already taken and passed the following subjects and have only basic navigation left to do. Three new cadets have also joined the squadron this month.

### For your information

Promotions are based on individual merit along with other factors such as age and classification and are as follows:

Corporal  
Sergeant  
Flight Sergeant  
Cadet Warrant Officer (Interview)

Classifications are based on academic achievements through the ATC syllabus, the classifications are attained by passing exams and are as follows:

1<sup>st</sup> class cadet  
Leading cadet  
Senior cadet  
Staff part 1  
Staff part 2 (interview)

### Squadron Day Walk - Written by Cadet Corporal Joe Keel

On the 24th of January, 12 cadets and 3 staff members from the squadron went on a group walk around the countryside near to Deal and St Margaret's at Cliffe.

For the older cadets, it was a chance to test their navigation skills and learn more advanced techniques, but, for the newer cadets, it was a chance to learn the basics. We arrived at our starting point at 9.00am sharp and shortly met with Canterbury squadron who were to join us for the day. The walk leader (Mr Root) asked everybody to make a group of 3 and gave every group a map and 3 compasses, then he chose one group to lead the first leg.

After much deliberation, we finally started walking. It took us just over an hour and a half to reach our first rest point and then it was another hour to the lunch site. After a varied lunch (some had sandwiches, some had a proper military ration pack) the group of 20 selected another leader to lead us away from Whitfield and Dover and towards our finish point. The Pace quickened for half an hour after lunch, but soon many had returned to a casual stroll and had to be reminded that we needed to be home by 5! One leader almost led us along the wrong path but after consulting his own map, Mr Root put us back onto the right track.

The non-stop walk from the lunch point to the minibuses took just under 2 hours and after a group photo with the two squadrons, it was time to take off our dirty walking boots and drive back to Faversham.



## General Air Training Corps Info

### Staff

The following members of staff are currently 'on duty' at Faversham Squadron:

#### Commanding Officer

Phil Camp

#### Adjutant

Darren Wilkinson

#### Training Officer

Liam Masters

#### Civilian instructors

Steve Root

Paul Whalan

Matt Slater

Chris Luton

Alan Sime

Amy Billcliffe

Ed Cull

### Structure of the Corps

Individual squadrons are formed into Wings which are usually based on counties. Ours is Kent wing.

These wings are formed in to Regions based on geographical location, our region is London and South East or LASER for short. It consists of:

- Essex
- Kent
- London
- Middlesex
- Sussex
- Surrey

There are 6 regions that make up the whole of the Air Training Corps.

Competitions are therefore held at these three levels.



### Thinking ahead

2011 is the squadrons 70th anniversary, with this in mind we will be arranging some sort of function. Dates and a venue have not been decided yet, but the civilian committee would welcome any suggestions.



The next issue will be sent out sometime in June

Don't hesitate to contact us

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**We're on the Web!**

<http://www.airtrainingcorps.info/1242/>