

1242 SQUADRON NEWSLETTER



Officer in Charge: WO P. Camp

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Annual inspection

The weeks leading up to annual inspection were the busiest the squadron has seen for some time, a lot of work was required behind the scenes to coordinate with the Civ com, the various staff members and most importantly the cadets themselves. Much of this work was done by CI Amy Billcliffe and she was very surprised to receive a bunch of flowers from the CO on the night.

The evening featured the traditional squadron inspection, a power point review of the year, a band performance and the presentations of awards and certificates by the CO. The whole evening was finished off with fantastic buffet and complimentary drinks.

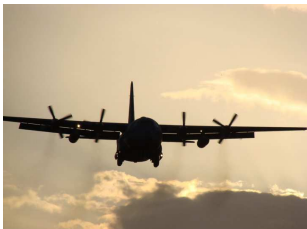
The inspecting officer Cllr Ted Wilcox, Mayor of Faversham was very impressed with the cadets, he said at the end of the evening "this annual inspection has been one of the highlights of my time as mayor." The full list of awards is published on page 3 and to see pictures of the evening click [here](#)

Sun 'n' fun - written by Adult Sgt Daz Wilkinson

Three cadets, F/S Dewey, Cpl Creed, Cpl Mallett and myself took part in this years Sun 'n' Fun.

The object of the camp is for the cadets to get an understanding of how to marshal aircraft and helicopters. Tasks which they performed excellently. It also gives them an opportunity to fly in various aircraft and to meet cadets from the two American cadet forces, the Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC) and the Civil Air Patrol (CAP.) The American organisers prefer to utilise our cadets over their own as they have a better knowledge and understanding of working on a busy airfield and usually more enthusiasm!

At the end of the fortnight the cadets and staff visited some of the local attractions and theme parks. We also visited Mac Dill AFB and were given a guided tour around the base. The Whole trip ended well and luckily we were not delayed too much by the volcanic ash!



Recent Events

Drill Competition

Every year all the squadrons in Kent wing compete in the drill competition. It's the same routine every year and it involves various different movements, both marching and static. This year it was held at the MOD Fire Training School next to Manston airport on the 17th of April.

All cadets have to pass a basic drill test as part of their first class training and then as they progress they learn more complicated movements. At 1242 drill is practised every night for 15 minutes.

This year the competition went well with Sgt Love in command of the drill squad and all the new cadets performing very well. The result was a pass and all the staff are pleased with the outcome.



Cadet of the Month and Achievements

The Cadet of the month for March: Cdt McCarron
April: Cdt McLean

Congratulations to the cadets who gained awards at annual Inspection

Best Cadet	Cdt Jess Stammers
Best NCO	Sgt Joe Keel
Runner up best cadet	Cdt Alice Maw
Best bandsman	Cdt Dom Mallett
Cadets cadet	Cdt Max Valentine
Best New-comer	Cdt Joe McCarron
Best shot	F/S Nick Dewey
Best exam results	Sgt Lachlan Bennett
The Shersby Trophy	Cdt Mowll
Civ Com award	Cdt Mallett and Sgt Keel

Also to Cpl's Keel and Bennett who were both promoted to Sergeant, and to Cdt Olivia Webster for winning a silver medal in the 1500m run and being selected to represent the Kent wing at the London and South East region Competition.



Quiz Night – Written by Sgt Joe Keel

A very successful Quiz Night was held at The Old Wine Vaults on 28th February at which £112 was raised for the Faversham Squadron Funds and a further £115 for one of the cadets suffering from cancer. The pub was packed out with the cadets and civilian committee dragging their friends into the pub to join in! Cadets were much in demand by teams for the aircraft-recognition round and organisers were delighted with support for the evening. The pub staff are hoping to hold a similar event later in the year for Faversham ATC, so maybe some more funds can be raised for the squadron later in the year. Congratulations to the team that came first (The Revaulters with 62 points) and to everybody who took part!

For your information - Gliding

When cadets go gliding they can go in two different types of glider depending on where they go to do it:

- The first is the Viking (shown on the right,) which has two seats, one behind the other and no engine. It's launched by a winch that pulls the glider very quickly up to around 1000 feet at a 90 degree angle.
- The second is the Vigilant which also has two seats but they are side by side. The main difference with this type of glider is that it has an engine which means it can take off independently and stay flying for longer

Most of our gliding is done at RAF Kenley in south London, an airfield which, in 1940 was at the heart of the Battle of Britain with several squadrons engaged in the direct defence of London. Now though it is home to 615 Volunteer Gliding Squadron (or VGS) and they are the ones who take our cadets flying.



Classic Car Show

Every year during the classic car show the squadron opens up its gates to members of the public. Not to show off our vintage vehicle collection, mainly because we don't have one, but to raise money for the squadron by selling food and drink, cooked on our very own BBQ.

The day started at 8:30, with cadets, staff and the Civ com putting out tables and chairs, the BBQ, the recruitment posters and advertising boards. Once this had been done the cadets spent their time handing out leaflets, helping the Civ com and eating. Later on in the afternoon the band played and not only drew a big crowd but raised a bit of extra money as well.



At about 16:00 the crowds started to drop off so we started to pack up, the day was a huge success. We raised just over **£700!!!** (A record for the classic car show) and have potentially gained 4 new recruits. Thank you to everyone you turned up and helped on the day!

Wing Athletics 09/05/10

This year we were very well represented at the athletics competition, with 5 cadets representing the squadron in a variety of different disciplines. Most notably Cdt Olivia Webster for coming 2nd in the 1500m run and Cdt Hobbs for coming 2nd in the Javelin. The other cadets were,

Cdt Mallett:	Javelin and 800m run
Cdt McCarron:	Discus
Cdt Stammers:	Long jump and shot put
Cdt Burford:	High Jump

Overall it was a very successful day, with the cadets maintaining the highest standards of the squadron.

Joint band

After forging new links with Canterbury squadron over Christmas, the decision was taken to join our two bands together. We have a history of winning both the turn out and percussion competitions at a wing level, whilst Canterbury have a band twice the size of ours, but have recently lost their band master to another squadron. We have now had two joint practises at Canterbury squadron and plan to enter this year's band competition with them. As well as playing together at several other smaller performances throughout the summer.

Goodbye

We say a fond farewell to civilian instructor Paul Whalan this issue, due to a recent promotion at work he no longer has the time to fully commit himself to the squadron. He will be sorely missed, his friendly and approachable manner made him a very sociable member of the squadron and his aviation expertise a very valuable one. We wish him all the best.

General Air Training Corps Info

Did you know? That the head of the Air Training Corps is a full time serving member of the RAF and holds the rank of Air Commodore.

And, that all officers in the ATC hold the Queens commission and although highly unlikely, in theory at least could be called to serve in the RAF in times of war.



1st Class
Cadet



Leading
Cadet



Senior
Cadet

As explained in the last edition these are the badges worn by the cadets on their right arm to show their classification. The only classification not shown is Staff Cadet, which replaces the badge with a yellow lanyard worn on the left shoulder.

The next issue will be sent out in August

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We're on the Web!

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