

Dear All,



Well hasn't the last 3 months been busy! what an amazing period of change for the squadron following the largest intake EVER for Sevenoaks Squadron, putting our squadron strength up to 54 cadets! Over this period, we have shown the true strength in depth of the squadron and the abilities of the NCO team! They have taken your new son and daughters and turned them in to a well-oiled machine in just over a month. This was highlighted on Remembrance Sunday when they paraded with the rest of the squadron. I had many comment of how smart and presentable the squadron was, for which you and your cadets should be rightly proud! It was an honour to lead them on my first

parade with Sevenoaks squadron and I was so elated when we made the front page of the Chronicle! Well done team 2158 – not all youths get bad publicity!

The squadron has seen multiple successes during this period too in sports, classifications, and qualifications to the point where I wouldn't like to list here at the risk of missing one out however these are identified in this newsletter. Also big congratulations need to go to our two Lord Lieutenants award winners, CWO Relyea and Chairman of the Committee James Richards - both well-deserved as this award is only second to the Queen's Birthday Honours. All the awards showcase what we can offer all the cadets and staff of the squadron and that if the cadets apply themselves then anything is possible! The opportunities are endless.

Approaching the end of my first year in command of 2158 I can truly say that it has been a blast to bring the squadron to where it is! The staff team and the squadron are growing allowing for even more activities to be provided in 2018. 2017 will end of the 21st December with a Christmas Curry!

2018 will start with a celebration of this years success with a presentation evening on the 18th January at the Squadron. Here we will be presenting the cadets with their personal success awards and the squadrons trophies. So please do come along for a glass of wine/tea.

On the 20th January we also have our Annual Burns night dinner to which you have hopefully all had a letter brought home. We hope to have as many of the cadets there as possible

All that's left for me to say on behalf of the Staff team and I is, have a wonderful festive period and a Happy New Year.... Here's to the opportunities of 2018!

P C Howes
Flight Lieutenant RAFVR(T)
Officer Commanding
2158 (Sevenoaks) Squadron

Don't forget to vote for us at Tesco's Town Centre and Riverhead Stores!

**Whenever you shop at these stores between now and 31st December,
please pick up a token and vote for ATC Sevenoaks (2158)
to help us bag the top grant!**

Events Completed

“Gritty Bottom” Outward Bound Weekend



During September, Cdts Tristan Barnes, Edward Bannister, Andrew Churchouse and Lukas Quinn, together with Cpl Daisy Campbell enjoyed this weekend in the Peak District that was organised by Sevenoaks staff. Activities included hill walking, mountain biking and archery.

Gold Duke of Edinburgh Training Weekend

Well done to Cdt Hannah Callum, Sgts Kathryn Winkett and Josephine Hamon, Flt Sgt Callum Bridel and WO Bradley Relyea for completing their practice expedition during September in the Peak District.

Kent Wing Pentathlon Competition



The five disciplines were obstacle course, navigation exercise, first aid, initiative and shooting/archery. We entered three teams all put in great performances. The senior team won their age category and the Squadron came third overall in the wing! An outstanding performance with more medals and certificates!

Greens Camp, Crowborough Army Training Camp



This gruelling 4 day exercise was organised by Kent Wing and was held over the October half term. Over 40 cadets attended with Cpls Daisy Campbell and Oliver Fisher-Hughes from Sevenoaks.

Our very own action man and Junior Leader, Flt Sgt Callum Bridel was a staff member. The entire period was spent “in the field” and apparently it didn’t stop raining!

Poppy Appeal



We were again involved with fundraising for the Royal British Legion. We collected over three days at Polhill garden centre and at Sevenoaks railway station, and it was great to see support from so many of our new 3 Flight. Well done to CI Simon Lake for organising.

Sevenoaks Round Table Fireworks

We were involved in marshalling for this event, and are very grateful for the excellent turnout this year. This is our biggest fundraising event as the Round Table make a considerable donation in recognition of the help we provide.

Remembrance Service



43 cadets, our largest ever contingent took part in the Service of Remembrance on a bitterly cold day. It was the first time our 3 Flight were on parade and they did a magnificent job, as did the rest of the Squadron.

Festival of Remembrance at Royal Albert Hall



Brad with Emile Sande

CWO Bradley Relyea was one of 15 cadets from across London and South East Region who took part in the Festival of Remembrance at the Royal Albert Hall on 11 November.

Dressed in WW1 uniforms to mark 100 years since the end of Passchendaele, they were positioned around the Hall in spotlights, as veterans talked about their experiences.

During rehearsals, Bradley took the opportunity to explore backstage and meet others taking part in the Festival, before being back on stage ready to perform for the Queen and Royal Family during the evening show.

Remembrance Day Parade at the Menin Gate in Ypres by Sgt Winkett



Four cadets from Sevenoaks joined 30 other cadets from LASER to participate in the Official Remembrance Day Parade at the Menin Gate in Ypres.

We paraded through the streets of Ypres alongside cadets and military personnel from Canada, Scotland, Belgium, India and the London Metropolitan Police and London Fire Brigade. The service of Remembrance was held in the Menin Gate in the presence of HRH The Princess Royal. It was a very moving service and during the two minutes' silence, poppy petals fell from the ceiling.

We took part in the Last Post Ceremony which takes place every day of the year to commemorate those who lost their lives during the First World War. We paraded through the streets of Ypres up to the Menin Gate accompanied by the bands of London Metropolitan Police, London Fire Brigade and Pipes and Drums.

We visited the war graves cemeteries at Tyne Cot and Passchendaele where we were shown the grave of the only soldier to have been awarded the VC Medal twice in the same war Captain N.G. Chavasse from the Royal Army Medical Corps. We visited the Trenches Museum where we could experience some of the harsh realities of life in the trenches.

This trip has made me fully appreciate the sacrifices of so many men so that we can live in peace.

Snippets

- Thanks to Sgt Fran Hibbins, a group of cadets were allowed behind the scenes at Brands Hatch racing circuit
- Cdt H Callum took part in the region netball competition, with the Kent Wing team coming second overall
- Bronze DofE practice and assessed expeditions
- Youth First Aid course at Swanley sqn: First Aid at Work course for 2 members of staff and 1 cadet
- Kent Wing Summer camp to RAF Wittering
- Blue Wings Ground School training and Air Experience Flights at RAF Benson culminating in a number of cadets achieving their Blue Wings badge
- Gibraltar camp attended by 1 cadet from 2158
- 3 cadets helped at Biggin Hill Festival of Flight
- National Aerospace Camp
- CWO Relyea awarded the Lord Lieutenants Award and Chairman James Richards awarded the Lord Lieutenants Meritorious Service Award
- National Choir Camp
- Sqn camp at Mereworth Woods focussing on Blue Leadership syllabus
- Highly successful Summer Dinner & Disco at Donnington Manor
- Gliding reintroduced to Corps and 2 cadets had their first gliding opportunities at RAF Odiham
- Wing Swimming – Z Callum, N Barnes & S Vine
- Region Netball – H Callum
- Region Swimming – S Vine – 2 silver medals
- Junior Hockey and Football trials
- 3 Flight Passing out parade for 6 cadets
- Area Drill Test
- Battle of Britain Memorial unveiling to Jack Hammerton
- Recruitment Open Evening – 23 new recruits
- Squadron Halloween party organised by CI Smith.

Forthcoming Events

Please encourage your child to write their names on the events on the board, further details will be provided ahead of each event on Squadron evenings and on the Facebook pages:

- 3 Dec** **Inter squadron Cross Country at Mereworth Woods - please sign up**
- 21 Dec** **Christmas Curry Night Thursday 21st December**
This is our Christmas social event and is always a great night for the cadets. We require cadets to let us know if they are attending so a sheet has gone up on the noticeboard. The price is fixed at £15 and the cash can be given to Lizzie Winkett, our Adjutant. They will need cash for a drink on the night.
- 18 Jan** **Awards Evening**
This will be a new event for us, and will provide an opportunity to recognise the achievements of our cadets over the past year. Parents and friends are invited in what we hope will be a fun evening.
- 20 Jan** **Annual Burns Night Dinner**
This will be held at Hever Castle Golf Club near Edenbridge, and gives the Cadets a chance to experience the formality of a military style dinner. A separate letter which gives further information should have been given to you by your son or daughter. It also has a returnable page allowing a menu choice to be made. The deadline for payment and return of the form is Thursday 11th January.
- 1 Mar** **Passing Out Parade of current 3 Flight**
All parents are invited to the Passing Out of our current 3-Flight ahead of our new in-take at the end of March. Cadets to arrive at Squadron at normal time. Parents to be at St Luke's Church (Parish Church of St Luke Sevenoaks, St Luke's House, 30 Eardley Road, Sevenoaks, Kent TN13 1XT) for 19:15. Cadets will perform a banner parade from Squadron to Church. Final pick up will be from the Squadron. Your support would be much appreciated. Refreshments will be available.
- End Mar (TBC)** **New Recruit Night**
The date is still to be confirmed, but if you son or daughter has friends that would be interested in joining then this will be the next opportunity.
- 18 Mar** **Marshalling at Hastings Half Marathon**
- 1-8 Apr** **Gold DofE assessed expedition in Snowdonia**
- 8-23 Apr** **Sun'n'Fun Camp in Florida (16+)**
- 26 May - 3 Jun** **St Mawgan Camp**

Other events are likely to be arranged so watch this space!

Who's Who?

Have you ever wandered in to the Squadron and wondered who is who? In an effort to address this, we thought it would be a good idea to give a little background information on the members of staff. So in this edition of the newsletter we had a chat to our CI Aaron Boakes.



Aaron started as a cadet with Biggin Hill Squadron way back in 2007 at the tender age of 13. He liked it, as he stayed with them until his 20th birthday in 2014, reaching the heady rank of Cadet Sergeant.

At this age you "age out", and are faced with a choice; either stay on and become adult staff or leave the organisation. Aaron decided to stay and as his sister, Haley was staff at Sidcup he transferred to that Squadron. After six months at Sidcup, Haley transferred to Sevenoaks and Aaron decided to follow. He obviously gets on well with his sister!

Outside of ATC, Aaron has worked for Lidl and is currently an Engineers mate at AGM Services. His passion is Air Soft, so on most weekends you will find him scrabbling round in a field shooting spherical plastic pellets at the enemy, whilst trying to avoid being hit. Apparently it is good fun! He lives in Sundridge and has yet to fly the nest.

We are very pleased that Aaron has recently passed his archery course, so he will now be able to teach basic archery skills to cadets.

Congratulations

Staff Promotions

Fran Hibbins made the decision to move from a non-uniformed role as Civilian Instructor to become Sergeant.

Ben Mutch has now received his Commission with the rank of Pilot Officer.

Duke of Edinburgh Awards

Bronze Award: Cdt's Hannah Callum and Andrew Churchouse, Sgt Josephine Hamon

Badges

Cdt Sophie Vine: two region swimming medals

Sgt Kathryn Winkett: blue musicians badge

Promotions

Jamie Perry as Leading Cadet.

Tom Smith, Ollie Fisher-Hughes, Ben Stringer and Daisy Campbell to Corporal.

Josephine Hamon to Sergeant

Callum Bridel to Flight Sergeant

Bradley Relyea to Warrant Officer

Instructor Cadet: Sergeants Kathryn Winkett, Josephine Hamon, and Corporal Daisy Campbell successfully completed the course and assessment, and were presented with their yellow lanyard by our Wing Staff Officer, Squadron Leader Nigel Grapes.

Goodbyes

It is with much sadness that we said goodbye to a trio of NCOs this autumn. Cpl Eryk Kudla joined in October 2013 and after completing his A levels at Knole Academy is now studying Criminology at London South Bank University. Cpl Joseph Ballard joined in March 2014 and has decided to devote more time to his chess tournaments and studies in his final year of GCSEs. Finally, Flight Sergeant Chris Lake reached his 20th birthday which means he “aged out” and is required to leave. Chris joined way back in January 2011 and we will miss his cheeky smiling face.

Our thanks to all of them for their contribution to the Squadron during their time with us, and do hope they will keep in touch.

Other News

Christmas Break

Following the Curry night, the Squadron will be closed until Tuesday 9th January.

Did You Know we can claim back Gift Aid?

We are an Excepted Charity and we can claim back basic rate tax on the £15 monthly subscriptions that you pay. Do you pay Income Tax? If so, have you completed our Gift Aid Declaration? Our Civilian Committee Chair will regularly contact you if, according to our records, you have not completed a Form. This Form enables us to claim taxes back from HMRC and helps to fund our various activities. We do hope you will respond to any requests to complete this Form, please email chair.2158@aircadets.org for details.

Latest News

For latest news, up-dates and live communications with the Squadron, cadets please join us on Facebook ‘2158 (Sevenoaks) Squadron’ and Parents please join us on Facebook ‘2158 (Sevenoaks) Parents and Civilian Committee’.

Can you support the Squadron, or do you know someone who may be interested?

Civilian Instructors: We are currently seeking to recruit Civilian Instructors to enable the Squadron to continue to run the many activities for the benefit of the cadets. The Squadron is run and administrated by this dedicated team of adult volunteers. At present, we have two uniformed staff and several Civilian Instructors making up the team. If you would like to read more about the different adult staff roles on the Squadron, or you are aware of someone who may be interested, please visit our website’s Join Us page which has links to the different roles and what each one entails. If you would like to help in this area or fancy a chat about opportunities, please contact the Officer Commanding oc.2158@aircadets.org.

Civilian Committee Membership: 2158 (Sevenoaks) Squadron has an active Civilian Committee, but are always looking for new members to join and assist in developing the squadron further. Current members meet every two months, and are responsible for the administration of funds, applying and searching for grants for equipment, assisting with fundraising and recruitment events plus other tasks required by the Officer Commanding. Oh and there are some fun social nights! Please do email the Committee Chair chair.2158@aircadets.org.

Next Civilian Committee meetings are on 5th December and 6th February 2018.

We are on twitter, Instagram and Facebook! So follow us for up to date news and info!