

Dear All,



Flt Ltn Howes receiving a cake for passing his Mountain Leader! Made by our fabulous CI Smith.

WOW, well what a change three months brings!

The Squadron has grown in both numbers and stature within the Wing. With the passing out of 8 three Flight Cadets and a successful recruitment night with six more cadets joining we are going from strength to strength. I would love to give you a brief overview however the squadron has been involved in so much it's hard to keep it brief!

As in normal in the spring, we have helped at various community events; marshalling at the Hastings Half Marathon, at the Knole Park 10k run and at the Valence School Vintage Car Hill Climb challenge. Most recently we helped at the Tonbridge Carnival.

The squadron has had representation in the Fly the Flag ceremonies for Commonwealth Day and Armed Forces Day at the Sevenoaks Town Council and Sevenoaks District Council offices.

As a thank you for the cadets' hard work we were able to secure tickets for the Major General Review of Trooping the Colour on Horse Guards Parade. This was followed by a visit to Bomber Command Memorial in Green Park.

As the corps sports season continues cadets have taken part in the Inter-Squadron Hockey trials, Athletics, 5 a-side football and netball. Several cadets were chosen to represent the Wing for Athletics and our scratch netball team came third in the competition. This is the first time that the squadron has taken part in the football and netball competitions. And what a result!

At the Decathlon competition in March the squadron came a very close 4th place narrowly missing out on the bronze medal. Here both the senior and junior teams participating in ten events Archery, Drill, Kayaking, Swimming, Obstacle course, Initiative exercises, First aid, tent pitching and the Bleep test.

The squadron has continued with its shooting prowess with two of our cadets gaining a place in the Kent Wing Shooting team and have been practising for the Inter-Service Cadet Rifle Meeting at Bisley in July and other cadets have been on L81 and L98 training and range days. One of our NCO's has also been selected for the Kent Wing Arms Drill Display team which will be performing at the Battle of Britain Parade in July, again another first for the squadron.

Throughout this time several cadets have gained awards that are firsts for the squadron. They have completed their Bronze Radio Operator course and one has completed the Silver level Voice Communicator award. One of our talented cadets attended the National Choir camp and gained his Gold Music badge, which was not only the first on the Squadron but in the Wing!

In the last three months we have had seven cadets training hard for the Nijmegen marches and they have successfully completed this gruelling phase which was marked with a Pass out Parade in front of parents and wing staff before going to Holland in mid July. This is the most we have ever had from the Squadron! This is both a mentally and physically demanding challenge requiring



Cadet Perry who gained his Gold Music badge.

the cadets to march 25 miles on four consecutive days in and around Nijmegen. The cadets have attended training weekends once a month for the past 7 months, marching up to 25 miles each day around Folkestone. With the intention of getting more cadets interested in marching, the squadron took twelve cadets to the Spitfire Cadet March in May which is an 18 mile march following a route between former Spitfire airfields around Folkestone. 2158 was praised by the organisers for being the best turned-out squadron and for having the fastest time.

The flying syllabus has continued and seven cadets have had their first flights at RAF Benson, Oxfordshire on GROB Tutors. These cadets will be completing their ground school training at the end of July and will be the first on the Squadron to earn the new Blue Wings. Three cadets were lucky enough to be selected to attend a Muster at RAF Benson to celebrate the 76th Anniversary of the ATC. The cadets had flights in Chinook helicopters and were able to see various aircraft from close quarters on the ground as well as displays of weapons.



RAF Benson Muster Day, cadets experience a flight in a Chinook

We have been busy as a squadron taking advantage of all the camps on offer. Over Easter one of our cadets and a member of staff were lucky enough to go the Sun'n'Fun camp for 2 weeks in Florida where they worked hard at the airshows and then spent time at the various theme parks in the area. We had two cadets go on the Regional ski trip to Zell am See, Austria for a week at Easter. We were successful in getting two cadets places on the Kent Wing Adventure Training camp to Windemere over Easter, giving them exposure to many types of adventurous training including, Kayaking, Climbing and mountain navigation. To top this off we also had one cadet go on station camp to RAF St Mawgan, Cornwall.

To ensure we are able to provide the correct level of training we have been developing our NCO team too. One of the NCOs has completed the Initial NCO course at RAF Manston, and one of our Sergeants completed the gruelling Junior Leaders course which took place over several weekends during the year. During the course he was selected to go on a trip to Ghana to help build a school for the local community. One of our Flight Sergeants has also completed his Method of Instruction course completing his classification syllabus.

As you can see we are getting out in the wing and will be continuing this throughout the rest of the year, as well as many on squadron events which are in the pipe line.

Finally, we are on twitter, Instagram and Facebook! So follow us for up to date news and information!

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

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:

July	International Air Cadet Exchange to Canada; 1 cadet selected
July	Junior Leaders trip to Ghana; 1 cadet selected
1-2 Jul	Bronze D of E expedition practice; open to all
4 Jul	AGM and Experience an Evening at the Squadron (see detail below)
9 Jul	Battle of Britain Parade at Capel-le-Ferne; places available, please sign up
6-9 July	Inter Service Cadet Rifle Meeting, Bisley; 2 cadets selected
13 Jul	Bowling (see details below)
16 – 22 Jul	Nijmegen Endurance march; 7 cadets selected
29 Jul – 5 Aug	Kent Wing Blues camp at RAF Wittering; 3 cadets selected
29 Jul	Flying experience at RAF Wittering; 4 cadets selected
15 – 22 Aug	Gibraltar camp; 1 cadet selected
19 - 20 Aug	Biggin Hill Festival of Flight; please sign up
19 – 26 Aug	National Aerospace camp; 1 cadet selected
20 – 27 Aug	National Choir Camp; 1 cadet selected
26 – 27 Aug	Bronze D of E expedition and Introduction to Fieldcraft and camping at Mereworth Woods; open to all
1 Sept	Summer Social – details to be confirmed
2 Sept	Gliding opportunity at RAF Odiham; 2 cadets selected
7 Sept	3-Flight passing out (see details below)
10 Sept	Wing Field Day; open to all
14 - 17 Sept	Gold D of E expedition practice, open to all
15 - 17 Sept	Gritty Bottom camp to Peak District; details to follow, open to all.
28 Sept	Recruitment night (see details below)

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

AGM and Experience an Evening at the Squadron - 4th July 2017

On the 4th July the Squadron and its Civilian Committee would like to invite you to attend our Annual General Meeting to find out what we do to help and fund activities for your child, enjoy an Indian meal with the Squadron (there will be a cost of £7.50 per adult as a contribution to the costs) and participate in some of the fun activities the Cadets undertake on a typical evening.

The timing for the evening is:

- 19:00 Refreshments on arrival for family members
- 19:15 Parents invited into the Squadron for the review of the year, the Civilian Committee AGM presentation, and open forum
- 20:00 Indian meal for family members and Cadets
- 20:15 A range of fun activities for family members with instruction from the Cadets
- 21:15 Parade ends.

Bowling - 13th July 2017



We have planned a fun night of bowling at the Tunbridge Wells Bowlplex on Thursday 13th July. There will be two games and a meal. We will be taking the minibus plus staff and committee will be driving their own cars. We are asking for a £10 donation (please give £10 in an envelope with your name on to CI Winkett).

Passing Out Parade of 3-Flight - 7th September 2017



Cadets Passing Out are: Samuel Bryan, Isabelle Cole, Owen Ellis, Lukas Quinn, Ciaran Smith and Joseph Smith. All parents invited to the Passing Out of our current 3-Flight ahead of our new in-take on the 28 September. 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.

Recruitment Night - 28th September 2017



New Recruits and their parents to arrive at 19:15. Refreshments upon arrival along with demonstrations from the cadets, presentation from Flt Lt Howes and Banner Drill at the end. Please spread the word to friends and neighbours with children aged 13 to 18 years who would like to attend.

Goodbye and Thank You to our Padre



Having been our Padre since July 2013, we would like to say a big thank you to Vicar Mark Griffin for all the time and support he has given 2158 Squadron over the years including the use of his fabulous St Luke's Church for our Passing Out Parades. Mark is moving on to pastures new and is to become the Rector of St Martin's and St Paul's in Canterbury with continued involvement with the ATC.

We wish you well Mark!

But all is not lost, as we are pleased to welcome Reverend Anne Bourne, who is Associate Vicar at St Luke's Church, and is keen to be our new Padre! Our September Passing Out Parade on 7th September will be Marks final commitment to us with Anne hopefully being sworn in on that day too.

Welcome Anne!

Congratulations

Congratulations to:

- Wing Athletics - Cdt Armstrong, Cdt H Callum, Cdt Z Callum, Cdt Vine
- Regional Athletics - Cdt H Callum
- Inter-Squadron Netball Bronze medal - Sgt Winkett, Cdt H Callum, Cdt Churchouse, Cdt T Smith
- Bronze Radio Communicator Badge - Cdt T Barnes, Cdt Churchouse, Cdt Perry
- Silver Voice Communicator - Cpl Ballard
- Nijmegen Endurance March - Sgt Winkett, Cpl Kudla, Cpl Park, Cdt Campbell, Cdt Fisher, Cdt T Smith, Cdt Stringer
- Spitfire March - Nijmegen team and Flt Sgt Relyea, Sgt Bridel, Cdt Banister, Cdt Perry, Cdt Vine
- Gold Music Badge - Cdt Perry
- Junior Leaders Course - Sgt Bridel
- First Flight - Cdt Banister, Cdt T Barnes, Cdt H Callum, Cdt Z Callum, Cdt Campbell, Cdt Herriet, Cdt Vine
- Bronze D of E - Flt Sgt Lake, Sgt Meyrick, Cdt Campbell,
- Instructor Cadet - Flt Sgt Relyea
- Master Cadet - Sgt Bridel
- Senior Cadet - Sgt Winkett, Cpl Hamon, Cdt Campbell
- Leading Cadet - Cpl Jenner, Cdt N Barnes, Cdt Churchouse, Cdt Fisher
- Community Award from the Mayor of Sevenoaks Town Council to CI Simon Lake for Voluntary Services to 2158 (Sevenoaks) Squadron.

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'.

Gift Aid

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.

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 is on Tuesday 8th August 2017**