



# 2021 - A Return to a New Normal



## FOREWORD BY THE WING COMMANDING OFFICER

As the year draws to closes on a somewhat bumpy and difficult year and our minds change to Christmas and New Year festivities, I would just like to reflect on the past year.

The year started very much as the previous year ended, our freedoms curtailed because of Covid, squadron life very much restricted as to what we could do. However, things did start to get better and were able to get out and start some DofE expedition training and qualifying expedition even if they were hybrids of normal expeditions as we know them.

Some cadets were lucky to get away to summer camp at RAF Odiham and had a terrific camp, we held Adventure Training (AT) based camp at RAF St Mawgan, this saw some cadets get really challenged and out of their normal comfort zone, but all reporting that they had a terrific time. Some staff got away to Windermere to update their national qualifications, so that they can continue to offer AT in the future. Look for a full AT programme in the coming year.

Shooting returned, its being one the activities that is deemed safe to do in Covid times, but it has taken a considerable amount effort get staff requalified and up to speed, so that they can conduct safe ranges and shoots for you. Three of our shooting Hubs are back up and running and the two Plymouth based hubs have a full shooting programme planned for squadrons at that end of the wing for coming year.

There are lots of changes on the horizon as our Commandant Air Cdre T Keeling starts to make changes to the RAFAC that he feels will keep us relevant and up to date and following some the futuristic steps our parent service the RAF is making with Project Astra. There will be a considerable development in Cyber and Space as well synthetic training such Virtual Reality that is use by the RAF. If you are interested in this type of technology, then apply to go to the RIAT camp in 2022, there is going to be the opportunity to fly against and with serving RAF Pilots!





We managed to get 20 cadets airborne in Gliders from RAF Little Rissington, unfortunately the weather curtailed any more flying that week, but that is the first proper allocation Air Cadet Gliding we have had in many years. 626VGS based at RNAS Predannack have started the long road back to flying status and I hope that with some good luck we may be able to see cadets from this wing fly there again at Easter next year. The life of the Grob Tutor has been extended and some modifications made, and they are returning flight status. I'm not sure yet if 3AEF will deploy to RAF St Mawgan next year or if we will travel to RNAS Yeovilton which is likely to be their operating base in 2022.

A new 2022 Wing Dairy will shortly be published listing all the opportunities at a wing level for you, it won't have everything in it because details of Summer Camps etc for 2022 have not yet been released.

So as the year closes, I would like to thank each and everyone of you being a RAFAC cadet, whether you have recently joined or are a senior cadet, it is I believe the best uniformed cadet service in the country and I am very proud to lead Plymouth & Cornwall Wing. I must also thank each and every staff member, whether serving on a squadron or at wing level or wearing multiple of hats without whom we would not have squadrons or a wing for me to command. I must also not forget the small but very dedicated permanent staff-based RAF St Mawgan, who are not seen by many, but are essential to the smooth running of the wing, thank you.

As 2022 is now fast approaching, I wish you all a very Happy Christmas and New Year.

Francis Reis  
Wing Commander  
Officer Commanding  
Plymouth & Cornwall Wing





# PCW e-News

 **ROYAL  
AIR FORCE**  
**AIR CADETS**  
the next generation

## COVER STORY

Welcome to the latest e-News from Plymouth & Cornwall Wing and a look back at the Year in which we celebrated the 80th Anniversary of the Air Training Corps.

However many of the planned events to celebrate the formation of the Air Training Corps by the issue of the Royal Warrant on 5th February 1941 were cancelled or postponed due to the national lockdown restrictions in place to manage the spread of the Covid-19 virus.

As restrictions were lifted the RAF Air Cadets once again started to take part in activities both locally and at Wing level while taking careful measures to minimise the risk of transmission of the Covid-19 virus.

While activities have been less than would normally be planned as you will read there has been plenty still been going on and the planning of more events in 2022 is already in progress.





### Wing Events

As with all of the RAF Air Cadets the start of the year saw the usual Wing activities being suspended or postponed including the plans to celebrate the 80th anniversary of the issue of the formation of the Air Training Corps in February.

As restrictions were lifted activities were carefully recommenced with additional safety precautions in place. This included the return to Face to Face squadron parades and the many activities open to cadets with a few exceptions. While it was anticipated that Air experience Flying would feature during the summer holidays for a number of reasons it was not possible for 3 Air Experience Flight to relocate to RAF St Mawgan this summer.

### Ten Tors

May is normally the month in which The annual Ten Tors Challenge is held. Due to the restrictions at the end of 2020 and the uncertainty of future restriction in relation to controlling Covid it was decided by the Wing to withdraw from the 2021 Ten Tors Challenge, the plan is to return back to the event in 2022, the decision proved to be the correct one with the event again being cancelled.

In January the Wing Ten Tors teams will commence training days and weekends to prepare cadets for the Challenge. The first training day will be held on Saturday 15-Jan-22 at Millbay TA Centre, Plymouth with theory for those who have not previously undertaken the training and kit checks and a walk for those who have previously completed the theory training.





### Duke of Edinburgh Award

Even during the lockdown cadets could complete their Volunteering, Physical and Skills sections of their awards.

As things started to return to normal a few individual squadrons teamed together to run expeditions as Sectors.

In July As well as the two teams completing their qualifying expeditions another team of Royal Air Force Air Cadets from different squadrons completed their practice expedition and are now ready to complete their qualifying expedition.

Pictured is a team at Burrator Reservoir, Dartmoor

2022 will see further Duke of Edinburgh Award expeditions being run across the Wing. While the expeditions can normally only be run from April to the end of October there is plenty cadets can do towards their other sections of the awards.







### Shooting

Shooting within Plymouth and Cornwall Wing is quickly getting back to normal. During the Covid lockdown periods, a small number of Range staff managed to juggle around the lockdown periods in order to meet and renew WHTs - essential if we were to hit the ground running when ranges and Squadrons opened up again. 3 Sqn were instrumental in keeping shooting skills alive with range days at Predannack where Air Rifle, L144A1, CLPW and L98A2 were all fired, and staff skills updated.

Nearly all range staff underwent mandatory "Remind and Refresh" training days, and a number of Squadrons have held Air Rifle and small-bore shooting activities at their home locations, while the Wing has held L98A2 IWT Courses, with the opportunity for Cadets and Staff to shoot on both days at weekends. 1225 Sqn has held a couple of training weekends for their Cadets at the Sqn for both L98A2 and L144A1, and 77, 169, 730, 781, 1876, 2312, 2377 and 2443 have all been busy on the shooting front. Teams are entered for various AR and Smallbore competitions, all testimony to the commitment of the Staff in overcoming the admin and logistical barriers!

The Wings' L81A2 7.62 Target rifles have recently been serviced, and range bookings at Millpool applied for, but not yet confirmed, so long range Gallery shooting is in the planner, at least.



Wing Commander Reis formally opened the new 5.5m 3P Air Rifle range at WHQ on 30th October, with Cdt Cpl Will Sivaam of 730 cutting the ceremonial ribbon with his first shot.

Staff have attended courses at St Mawgan, Blockhouse and Chilcomb to either renew and refresh their skills or to achieve new qualifications to ensure that they can contribute to the recovery programme





### Climbing Wall

In August 2309 (City of Plymouth) Squadron with instructors from nearby squadrons offered to run climbing wall evenings at the Millbay TA Centre.

Several squadrons accepted the offer with many cadets and staff experiencing ascending a climbing wall for the first time, others whom had previously tackled such challenges had the opportunity to brush up on their skills. As a number of staff found out Spiderman they are not and proved the theory of gravity..

### First Aid Course

As part of the return Squadrons all staff were required to ensure their mandatory qualifications were valid. In order for staff whose First Aid qualifications had expired during the halt of face to face activities a First Aid at Work refresher course was held at the headquarters of 339 (South Dartmoor) Squadron.

The course was run by the Wing First Aid Officer over two consecutive weekends in September.







## WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING CONTINUED

### Summer Camp — RAF Odiham

In August cadets from different squadrons travelled to RAF Odiham for summer camp. Prior to departure as part of the safety precautions each cadet and staff member had to provide a Covid test result. Numbers were limited more than usual as they were accommodated in tents one of which was dedicated as a isolation tent as a contingency should anyone test positive for Covid-19 during their stay

During their week at RAF Odiham they attended a number of visits to sections located on the station learning about the many units based there to allow the station to function. With RAF Odiham being the home of the RAF Chinook fleet the camp photos naturally had to feature the synonymous helicopter.







# WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING CONTINUED



## Summer Camp — RAF Odiham







## WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING CONTINUED

### Fieldcraft Basic Course

In August the Wing held a Fieldcraft Basic Course at RAF St Mawgan to introduce Fieldcraft to the younger cadets. During the course the cadets learned skills in camouflage and concealment, moving around unseen, building of two person shelters and setting up of sentry and observation posts.







### Battle of Britain Parade



In September the Wing participated in the anniversary of the Battle of Britain. The event, smaller in size due to Covid-19 precautions took place on Plymouth Hoe next to the Allied Air Forces War Memorial.

Cadets from a number of Plymouth Squadrons formed the parade and provided speakers to address those present.

Wing Commander Reis laid a wreath on behalf of the RAF Air Cadets.





## WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING CONTINUED

### 80th Anniversary Hike Challenge

Over the weekend of 17th to 18th October 2021 eighty plus cadets and staff took part in a hike across Bodmin Moor in Cornwall, organised by the Wing Adventure Training Team to celebrate 80-year Anniversary of the issue of the Royal Warrant to form the Air Training Corps, which is part of the Royal Air Force Air Cadets. This was the largest single event organised by the Wing in 2021.



Unusually, the weather was unseasonably dry and warm for the moors which made the challenge all the more pleasurable for the participants whose ages ranged from 12 with the youngest being Cadet Benjamin Goody of 781 (Newquay) Squadron to Warrant Officer Mike Taylor who at 79 years young and born when the Air Training Corps was in its second year.

Congratulations and thanks must be given to Squadron Leader George Blackburn, Warrant Officer Steve Wildgoose and all the team who helped organise and run this event which has been the largest event this year for the Wing.





## WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING CONTINUED

### Glider Induction Course

In October the Wing was offered five days of Glider Induction Courses by 637 Volunteer Glider School based at RAF Little Rissington in Gloucestershire. In order to maximise the day cadets travelled to the School the day before to conduct some training prior to the flight on the second day in the Grob Viking glider.

Sadly the British weather was less than kind which resulted in some sorties being cancelled.



### NCO Courses

October also saw the Wing hold Junior & Senior NCO Courses at RAF St Mawgan. This intense course teaches the Cadet NCOs leadership Drill & basic method of instruction.

Congratulation to all who passed the courses.





## WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING CONTINUED

### Remembrance

In October the Royal British Legion launches their annual Poppy Appeal to raise funds to support past and present service personnel.

The RAF Air Cadets supports the Royal British Legion by selling poppies during the Appeal. While last year the pandemic stopped our participation in the Appeal this year cadets were again please to help.



In November the Wing remembered the fallen and injured in conflict with Squadrons joining the Royal British Legion Remembrance Parades across the Wing area.





## WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING CONTINUED

### Update from 147 (Camborne & District) Squadron

It's been a busy and successful second half of the year for Camborne. As we gained two new staff members, it became easier to run a full and active program whilst also welcoming nine new cadets on the Squadron.

We started with an eight-week program before the new intake started; this was to assess any skill fade whilst the Squadron was away. It was fantastic to see that the fade was only minimal, and we were able to set up assessments for the Progressive Training Syllabus. With these assessments, we were able to award Blue Duke of Edinburgh's, Blue Leadership, Method of Instructions, Leading Cadet Classifications and Blue Communications. Plus, the cadets also achieved their Blue Space Qualification.



The new intake successfully passed parts 1 and 2 of their first-class syllabus and were formally enrolled into the Squadron in November. FS Barnes has stepped up to the challenge of taking on the new intake and putting her new MOI qualifications to good use. Our largest intake for a couple of years, and very high energy, she has learnt to overcome the challenges of Covid-19 restrictions and limited space.

In addition to the Squadron activities, we have been able to get out in public for Poppy Collecting over three weekends and invited to participate in 2 Remembrance Parades. We are looking forward to the rest of this year and to the planned activities of next year.







## WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING CONTINUED

### Update from 169 (St Blazey) Squadron

We returned to online sessions on January 13th, with most of the cadets still persevering with online Microsoft Teams sessions.

There were sessions with such diversity as a Squadron Bake Off to the usual Presentation Skills and Aircraft Recognition, to the career of the Lord Lieutenant of Cornwall. The cadets and staff are to be commended for their take on keeping online sessions interesting and engaging.



As lockdown 2.0 or 3.0 lifted in April we got back to outdoor training with a local Navigation Exercise over the Easter break around Lostwithiel and Fowey.

This prelude to return to parades got the cadets working as a team and was a great day. We returned at the end of April with sad departure of both of our CWO's who both aged out over the lockdown period. Luckily, CWO Peter Pascoe has continued as a CI and CWO Susie James has gone onto the Civilian Committee.





## WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING CONTINUED

### Update from 169 (St Blazey) Squadron cont...

Alongside this we had continued success with a Gold D of E award to Sgt Meghan Wisheart. We also said good bye and good luck to FS Drew Beau-Mont whi joined the Army for basic training, hoping to join the Royal Corp of Signals later in the year.



May and June saw another splattering of D of E completions at Bronze and Silver level and completion of Method of Instruction assessments and staff requalifying in First Aid at Work, Shooting and Range Management.

At the end of July we assisted at a local Veterans Music Festival, the first public event in over 18 months. VetFest21 was organised by the local Veterans Breakfast Club and the cadets got involved with programme selling, litter picking and marshalling. The event was a great success.





## WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING CONTINUED



October saw promotion of Sgt Jack Bennellick to Flight Sergeant and take over as the Senior cadet on the Squadron. Alongside this Wing NCO courses, and Gliding trips to Little Rissington saw 2 cadets glide for the first time. We also started our annual Poppy Appeal collection for the Royal British Legion. We managed to raise over £2100 for the appeal at Par Market over 2 weekends, a fantastic amount! We were also very lucky to be awarded a Tesco Community Token grant of £1000 towards new D of E and First Aid training equipment.

### Update from 169 (St Blazey) Squadron cont...

August and into September saw us get cadets to Annual Camp at RAF Odiham and as restrictions reduced recruitment increased in earnest. We welcomed 9 new cadets over the period and also gained new members of staff. Lots of First Class badges, Blue Leadership and Pre D of E badges ensued.







## WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING CONTINUED

### Update from 169 (St Blazey) Squadron cont...

Novembers main focus was Remembrance Sunday, this year owing to COVID restrictions was at Fowey rather than Tywardreath, and then supporting our colleagues at St.Austell in the afternoon. A very emotional day as the OC could not take part in the parade owing to recent major surgery. He was there supporting from the sidelines. The cadets as always impeccably turned out and their drill was very good.



December has been a busy month with lots of training squeezed in. Shooting, Blue Radio, Archery and Classification training has kept everyone very busy. We've managed to get loads in over this restricted year and wish all our Cadets, Staff, Civilian Committee members and supporters a wonderful and safe Christmas and a happy New Year.

*Flt Lt A Kelly, OC 169 Sqn*





## WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING CONTINUED

### Update from 197 (Devonport) Squadron

Since returning to face-to-face activity in April 2021, 197 Squadron has welcomed over 25 new cadets to the Squadron.

197 Cadets have been active by attending camps to RAF Odiham and RAF St. Mawgan during the Summer, as well as attending the South Devon Railway Event and the NCO Courses in the Autumn.



Cadets have continued to develop their Classification Training and the Cadet NCO team have been working alongside the Staff to deliver a varied and engaging Training Programme that allows all the cadets to achieve and enjoy their time in the Air Cadet Organisation.

The Cadets and Staff at 197 are thoroughly looking forward to the New Year, along with all the fantastic opportunities that will return.





## WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING CONTINUED

### Update from 339 (South Dartmoor) Squadron

The start of 2021 started as the previous year ended with virtual parades and online lessons.

However with the relaxation of lockdown restrictions the Squadron returned to Face to Face activities in April. Within the first month six cadets had qualified in their Heart Start first aid qualification with a further two requalifying in the award.

In June then Corporals Pitcher J & Pitcher K both completed their Instructor Cadet qualifications after giving presentations to the Sector Commander, Squadron Leader Olver. They were presented their yellow lanyard by Wing Commander Reis.



In July cadets from the Squadron joined cadets from other squadrons to complete their Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award expedition.

For some cadets this had been the first opportunity to complete their expedition which for some was the final section to be assessed to complete the Silver Award.





## WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING CONTINUED

### Update from 339 (South Dartmoor) Squadron cont.

In August some of the cadets joined cadets from other squadrons in attending summer camp at RAF Odiham where they undertook many section visits before being rewarded with a flight in a RAF Chinook helicopter.



Those cadets who did not go to camp, initial expedition training was undertaken including some practical demonstrations on the use of survival equipment.

In September we had a intake of six new cadets who commenced initial training which continued through to their enrolment in November.







## WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING CONTINUED

### Update from 339 (South Dartmoor) Squadron cont.

With the Squadron HQ is a nominated shooting hub and with hardened security the Enfield No.8 has finally been retired 70 years after its initial design and been replaced by the L144-A1 Cadet Small Bore Target Rifle (CSBTR).

Due to the extended pause due to the lockdowns it was decided staff needed a refresh training which took place in August leading to the cades receiving their Initial Weapons Training on the new rifle before undertaking target firing.



Within a couple of months four cadets achieving their Trained Shot badge.

In September the Squadron assisted the South Devon Railway at a belated Thomas the Tank weekend. Joining up with two other squadrons they undertook radio communications practical training and volunteering to count towards their Duke of Edinburgh Awards at all levels.

As part of Covid precautions the event was held over two separate days rather than the normal overnight camp.







## WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING CONTINUED

### Update from 2309 (City of Plymouth) Squadron

Since returning after the most recent lockdown, 2309 (City of Plymouth) squadron has hit the ground running. A lot of our cadets were eager to return to face-to-face parade nights, with a strong turn-out in the first week which has continued to grow with old cadets slowly returning and almost weekly new recruits.

With new cadets comes new promotions and Cpl Blake White joined the NCO team soon after returning with FS Rebecca Dowrick successfully completing her interview with Wing Commander Reis and becoming the squadron's new Cadet Warrant Officer.



As far as squadron activities are concerned, we have had a fun and varied schedule with everything from sports to leadership training, map reading to rock climbing. We have also had a number of nights where our Duke of Edinburgh Teams have been having kit checks, pitching tents and practicing their cooking skills on Trangia Stoves.

All of this DofE training has not been in vain, with six of our cadets completing their silver expeditions and five of them about to take part in their gold qualifying expeditions.

Overall, and against the odds of a pandemic, 2309 squadron is thriving, and the cadets and staff are all exceptionally grateful to be back in squadron, learning new skills, and most importantly, having fun.





## WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING CONTINUED

### Update from 2312 (Tavistock) Squadron

During lockdown 6 cadets from 2312 plus 2 from 339 completed their DofE silver practice and actual expeditions. The actual expedition visited castles from Okehampton to Launceston via Lydford 9 Cadets plus the CO, Adj and SNCO collected £1230.42 on 13 November 2021 for the Poppy Appeal. 17 cadets went on to parade for Remembrance Sunday the next day. The CO, Sqn Ldr Olver laid the wreath for the first time in his 56 year association with the Squadron .

The Squadron were made one of the COOPs charities for 20-21 and were delighted to receive £2686.00 from the COOP .The monies will go towards updating computer facilities once the new policies and training requirements from HQAC are known.



Sqn Ldr Olver handed over as OC to Fg Off Forbes on 30 November 2021 .This was the third time he has handed over the role to someone else. He joined the Squadron as a cadet in Feb 1965 and has been there ever since going from CWO to Pilot officer on 12 May 1972. 9 Cadets were enrolled on Sqn Ldr Olvers last night as OC .A variety of certificates 2 BTEC s in Aviation studies, 3 master cadet , 2 senior ,4 leading and 3 first class were presented to cadets as well as 5 DofE bronze certificates.

Cadet recruiting has gone well after the covid lockdown . Squadron numbers are approaching 40.





### Update from 2377 (Plympton) Squadron

Cadets at 2377 Sqn undertook a different activity this week. Whilst a number of our cadets were away at Ivybridge Sqn learning how to shoot the new L144 cadet target rifle, the cadets who weren't shooting selected weapons from several centuries earlier to learn the sport of fencing.

After overcoming the initial challenge of kitting up with facemasks under their faceguards the cadets learned the basic lunges and parries to enable them to challenge their opponent to a basic competition to see who could land the most hits. We also learned it's a lot easier to maintain a 1m social distance with a fencing foil pointed at you !

All enjoyed the evening, and everyone was surprised at just what a good physical workout the activity was. The building also survived, with no additional holes being stabbed in any walls or ceilings ! Many thanks to our instructor Abby who gave up her time to instruct and provided the equipment for the cadets to use. Hopefully we will be able to undertake the activity again in the future for those who missed it.







## WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING CONTINUED

### Update from 2339 (Plymstock & Mount Batten) Squadron

Cadets from 2339 Sqn have been out collecting toys, sweets and gifts for the Charles Cross Police Team who have been gathering these items to distribute to less fortunate children over the festive period under the police initiative named Op Elf.

Cadet Corporal Poppy Elsemere led the Squadron involvement in which the Squadron also gave a generous donation to the cause.



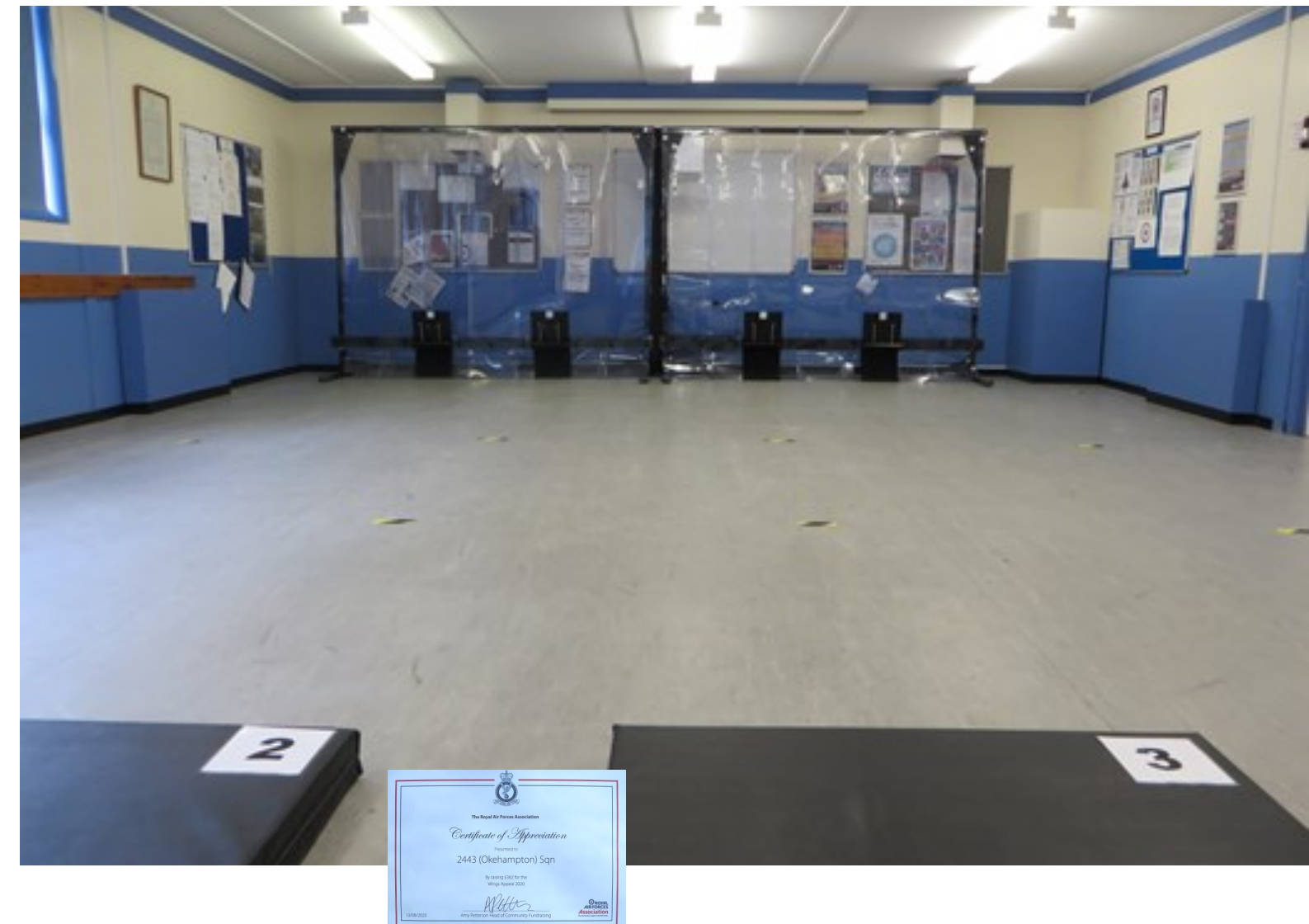




## WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING CONTINUED

### Update from 2443 (Okehampton) Squadron

2443 started to parade as a full Squadron in June, having previously only paraded in Flights from mid April, this in order to more easily maintain the required social distancing restrictions. Like a lot of Squadrons nationwide 2443 have lost a number of cadets during the Covid-19 lockdowns due to cadets ageing out, moving on to higher education or starting full time employment but happily the numbers have now been increased due to a surge of interest from the young people of Okehampton and the surrounding area, in fact our numbers are now slightly higher than they were pre pandemic.



Since returning to full time activities the cadets at 2443 Squadron have participated in various shooting activities such as Air Rifle Live Fire Marksmanship Training on our newly commissioned four lane TS25 Air Rifle Range (pictured above)

Cadets from both 2443 Squadron have also participated in shooting activities at the Dismounted Close Combat Trainer Range at Okehampton Camp and four of our cadets have attended the L98A2 Initial Weapons Training course held at RAF St Mawgan.





## WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING CONTINUED

### Update from 2443 (Okehampton) Squadron cont.

On the community engagement side the Squadron has been able during 2021 to assist the organisers and participate in the Okehampton Show, the Okehampton Rotary Club Summer Fair and the Okehampton Carnival.

During the run up to the Royal British Legion Remembrance Day cadets from 2443 Squadron managed to raise £1829.74 towards the annual Poppy Appeal. For Remembrance Sunday the Council asked for groups to only send 3 to 4 representatives as part of their Covid restrictions.







## WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING CONTINUED

### Update from 2443 (Okehampton) Squadron cont.

Although opportunities for flying and gliding have been few and far between due to restrictions however as restrictions lifted two cadets from 2443 Squadron, Cpl Harriet Wright and Cdt Liv Walker managed to get two flights each in a Viking glider during a visit to RAF Little Rissington.

Further gliding opportunities will be available in 2022.







### Update from 2443 (Okehampton) Squadron cont.

In November Cadet Flight Sergeant Joe Manners was awarded a Flying Scholarship as part of the Air Cadet Pilot Scheme at Tayside Aviation Centre in Dundee.

The scholarship included intensive flying lessons culminating in a solo flight and the award of his Air Cadet Pilot Scholarship Wings.







### Appointments

Following the retirement of Sqn Ldr Windo a selection process was conducted to appoint his successor, congratulations are to Squadron Leader George Blackburn who has been appointed to the role of Wing Adventure Training Technical Officer (WATTO).

Squadron Leader Blackburn (pictured right) was previously the Deputy WATTO and has a wealth of knowledge and experience of many adventure training activities including the running of the Wing Adventure Training camps at Windermere, Llanbedr and



### Awards

In June the Wing was informed that Flight Lieutenant Karla Oliver has been awarded an AOC Commendation in the Queens Birthday Honors. Flight Lieutenant Oliver is the Squadron Commander of 1387 (Liskeard) Squadron having taken command in September 2010 of the then Detached Flight of 335 Squadron.

Through her leadership the unit grew in cadet numbers before it was granted squadron status.

A keen outdoor person, Flt Lt Oliver has managed the Wing Ten Tor Training Team and is a regular assessor on the Duke of Edinburgh Award expeditions.



## Appointments

Pilot Officer Conner Andrews has been appointed as Officer in Charge of 77 (Redruth) Squadron to allow Squadron Leader Pete Ward to focus on his roles of Deputy Wing Commander and Sector Commander for West Cornwall..

Flying Officer Sophie Forbes has been appointed as Officer Commanding 2312 (Tavistock) Squadron, she takes over from Squadron Leader John Olver whose role will be full time Sector Commander for Dartmoor.

Flying Officer Duncan Cathie has been appointed as Officer Commanding 2174 (North Plymouth) Squadron with a big thanks to Flying Officer Lorraine Bolger who had commanded the Squadron for over 3 years.



335 (Saltash) Squadron also sees a new Squadron Commander as Pilot Officer Murphy Ransley-Miles takes over from Squadron Leader Mike Symons MBE who will now be able to concentrate on his other roles as Sector Commander for Plymouth and Special Projects Officer which includes public engagement at major events.

Looking slightly ahead, 147 (Camborne & District) Squadron will also see a new Squadron Commander as Warrant Officer Liz Barnes will be handing command of the Squadron to Flight Lieutenant Sam Cairns as of 1st January 2022. Warrant Officer Barnes will take up the role of Squadron Warrant Officer and continue in her role as the Wing Sports Officer.







## WING CIVILIAN COMMITTEE

Message from Wing Civilian Committee Chair, Phil Newcombe.

Firstly, and most importantly I give my personal thanks for the support given by all the Civilian Committee members at both Squadron and on our Wing team over this last year. It has been much appreciated by the WHQ team.

In the last year we have seen the vision of tighter control and governance applied to all. I hope all have now completed the requirements laid out by our Commandant and completed their eDBS application. Additionally, for all Squadron Chairs and Treasurers to also complete the BPSS checks to enable the use of the Bader system as we now migrate to use this platform for all future communications for any official or sensitive information.



ACP11, the Administration of Civilian Committees is now being amended for approval for issue to all in 2022. The need for this was to meet the Charity Commissions best practises.

As a Wing committee we recently agreed to support our OC Wings vision with the funding to upgrade the Wing Activity centres flight simulators to enable the latest flight training to be available to all Squadrons. We also approved the license to upload the flight simulator training as used by our VGS & AEF Squadrons to all Squadrons for use on a designated computer system. Our Wing IT Officer will supply details to all soon! We both fortunate and unique in our Region in having our own bespoke Wing Activity Centre so please do look to book this during 2022.





## WING CIVILIAN COMMITTEE Cont.

We are also looking at portable flight simulators to be loaned out to enable all cadets to complete the PTT Training. This is putting the Air back into our cadets and I hope you all will see the benefits in this. I hope to report on this with our Wing Commander in the Spring time!

We look forward to supporting all in the near future and for the timely completion of the 2022 Annual Assurance Reviews by all Squadrons. I wish all a Happy Christmas & a Happy New year!

In Memoriam  
*never forgotten*



In April we learned of the loss of our former Royal Patron, His Royal Highness Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh. Prince Philip was our Honorary Air Commodore-in-Chief for 63 years. Throughout his service he took a keen interest in the cadets activities and their achievements.

The Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme is an important legacy of Prince Philip which is today widely participated in by cadets from Bronze to Gold levels.

On 3rd November we learned of the sad loss of our former Wing Commander Pat Caiels RAF VR(T) (Retired) whose name is synonymous with the staff and the cadets for the Wing's annual Inter-Squadron Competition with the winners trophy named after him. The former Commander of 2174 Squadron when it was based at Sutton High School. He was promoted to Wing Commander in the 1980s and was in command when Cornwall and Plymouth Wings merged to become West Wessex Wing later renamed as Plymouth & Cornwall Wing.



We also learned of the sad loss of Mrs Patsy Willis, wife of Civilian Instructor Mike Willis at 2339 (Plymstock & Mount Batten) Squadron. On 12th November. Patsy and Mike had just celebrated their 64th wedding anniversary. Mike being a keen shooter in his early days would often be found on the range and it would not be uncommon for Patsy to equip Mike with sufficient refreshments to feed all the range staff.





## UPCOMING WING ACTIVITIES

Below are provisional dates and are subject to any restrictions as a result of measures against Covid:

14-16-Jan — L98 Initial Weapons Training Course

15-Jan — Ten Tors Training Day

29-30-Jan — Ten Tors Training Weekend

06-Feb — ATC Sunday

11-13-Feb — Ten Tors Training Weekend

12-Feb — Cadet presentation Skills Course

18-20-Feb — L98 Initial Weapons Training Course

19-Feb — Cadet presentation Skills Course

25-27-Feb — Ten Tors Training Weekend

25-27-Feb — Cadet NCO Courses

11-13-Mar — Ten Tors Training Weekend

18-20-Mar — L98 Initial Weapons Training Course

25-27-Mar — Ten Tors Training Weekend

08-10-Apr — Ten Tors Training Weekend

08-10-Apr — DofE Expedition Training

22-24-Apr — L98 Initial Weapons Training Course

## USEFUL INFORMATION

All enquiries should be initially made through Squadron staff.

Contacting Wing Headquarters

Email General Enquiries:

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## AND FINALLY

As the year draws to a close, the Wing wishes all cadets and their families a peaceful, safe and healthy Christmas Holiday and a prosperous and adventurous New Year. We look forward to an active 2022.