



BICESTER CHAT

The newsletter of 2507 (Bicester) Squadron, Air Training Corps



Issue 01/09 – February 09

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Flt Lt Breward

The Staff

OC: Flt Lt Breward
DOC: Fg Off Wastie
Plt Off Azizian
Sgt Sutcliffe

Cls Mr Blatcher
Mr Brafield
Mr Crisp
Mr Gidney
Miss Gidney
Mr Jones
Mrs Peck
Mr Sloan
Mrs Wastie
Mrs Williams

Sls Cpl Cole
SAC Bentham

Parade nights:

Tuesday and Thursday
evenings from 1845 until 2145
at Duclos Hall,
DE&S Caversfield,
Skimmingdish Lane
Bicester

Band Night Sunday 1900-2100
(in preparation for parades)

Up coming events

(Please put these events in
your diary)

February

Sat 7	Dining In Night
Fri 13 – Sun 15	Step Forward
Sat 21	Day Walk

March

Sun 1	Flying RAF Benson
Sun 1	Exam Revision
Fri 6 – Sun 8	Youth First Aid
Fri 6 – Sun 8	Intake Adventure Training Weekend
Fri 13 – Sun 15	Advanced Drill Course
Mon 16	Exam Revision
Fri 20 – Sun 22	D of E Practice Expedition
Mon 23	Corps Exams
Fri 27 – Sun 29	Tactical Leadership Course

April

Sat 4	Inter Flight Ex
Sun 5	5 a Side Football
Fri 17 – Sun 19	Expedition First Aid
Fri 17 – Sun 19	Bronze D of E Qualifying Exped
Fri 24 – Sun 26	Silver D of E Qualifying Exped
Fri 24 – Sun 26	Full Radio Operator's Course

Promotions

Well done to all cadets who
have been promoted recently.



L to R Cpl Dodds, Cpl Grieve, Flt Sgt Kellar,
Sgt Syed, Cpl Whitley., (Not pictured Sgt J
Peck and Cpl S Peck)

Messages from the OC

Happy New Year. 2009 has started with a bang with Mr Crisp securing 28 new cadets to form Intake 21. We've had to split them into two separate training flights in order to provide their training and development. We ran a very successful (and tiring) Heartstart and weapons course for them, and are looking forward to taking them on the adventure training weekend in March.

With the new intake on side we've increased our total cadet numbers to 71, with 68 being our largest parade strength. Well done all round. We now need to recruit for Intake 22, which starts in April.

Our future on the DE&S site now looks secure once the current owners move out, but we are faced with a massive retrenchment mission to get all our kit back in the Sqn HQ by 1 Oct 09. This, combined with our increased cadet numbers, means that the end of the year will provide some unique challenges to us. If anyone knows of anywhere we could store kit (for free) please let me know...

With additional cadets comes the need for more staff and additional support from our Civilian Committee. If anyone is able to come and help the squadron out, please don't hesitate to contact me, so that we can discuss the best way forward.

Welcome to Intake 21

Intake 21 arrived on 13 Jan 09. The intake is the largest we have ever had with a total of 28. As a result the group has been split into two, and are now known as Intakes 21a and 21b.



Intake 21a

25 of the new cadets attended the intake training weekend over the weekend of 17 to 18 January and they took part in Weapons instruction and did the Heart Start Course, where they learnt basic first aid techniques.



Intake 21b

Here are some of the intakes' impressions of their first experience of cadets, and in particular the intake training weekend.

Sutcliffe 'The weekend was very good and built up a good team spirit amongst the flights'.

Rees 'It was really fun and interesting doing Heart Start'.

Dixon C 'I enjoyed the Weapons Handling Test. It was fun to take the weapons apart and put them together again.

Hatton 'I thought it was good and a challenge – it wasn't hard but it was fun, and something to do'.

McMahon 'I thought the weapons handling was quite hard and I hurt my elbow, but it was good'.

McAtamney 'It was good to learn about the rifles but it was a very long day'.

Cole 'The weekend was great fun even though I have already done some first aid in the past. I really enjoyed the weapons handling'.

Tottman 'It was a good weekend. Much better than watching TV at home. I met lots of new people and enjoyed Heart Start'.

Mayor's visit

On 6 November we were honoured to host an open evening and received a visit from the Mayor of Bicester, Pauline Liddington. She was accompanied by Councillors Dan Sames and Charles Shouler. We were also pleased to welcome two representatives of Thames Valley Police and the Deputy Headteacher of The Cooper School.



The Mayor Inspects the Squadron

The visitors were able to see the Squadron and the Civilian Committee in action and visited the project groups. They saw the band preparing for the Remembrance Day

parade, and were able to chat with the cadets at tuck break. They then received a presentation from the OC and some of the cadets.



The Mayor presents Mr Kelly with his plaque

We were also delighted to welcome back Martin Kelly, former CI with the squadron, who came back to receive his leaving present. The mayor awarded him with the gift which was a plaque especially engraved for him to say thank you for the many years of hard work he had put in to supporting the squadron.

Remembrance Day Parade

On Sunday 9 November the squadron took part in the Remembrance Day parade in Bicester. As usual the squadron band led the parade.

The Band was also pleased to be able to stop outside the Littlebury Hotel to make a tribute to Rose McKeon who died in October after a short illness. Rose ran the family owned hotel with her husband Malachy, their sons and families (of which one is their granddaughter Cdt McKeon of our squadron). The band had the red carpet rolled out for them outside the Hotel.

This is a cadet's recollection of the events of the day:

'On the 9th November 2008, Remembrance Sunday, the ATC band and a group of marching cadets all marched up to St Edburg's (this also

included army cadets). We then had a reading from the Reverend and the Mayor. Two prayers were said followed by the laying of the wreaths. We then proceeded into a full church service with cadet Bellringer carrying the mace and Sgt Kellar carrying our flag. We then had a 1 and a half hour church service which was then followed by everyone marching around the Market Sq with the Army veterans leading the parade. On our arrival back to Coker Close we stopped outside the Littlebury Hotel to play some World War 2 songs and ended with World in Union. This was an emotional stop as a cadet's grandmother had recently passed away'.

Buckingham Parade

The Band also took part this year for the first time in the Buckingham Christmas Parade. The band enjoyed the event despite the heavy rain. Thanks to everyone who took part.

Flying

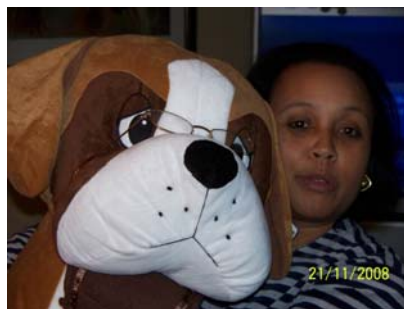
When we went flying at RAF Benson, we were briefed, then watched a video of Top Gun. We then went out to the portakabin and got dressed in coveralls and put helmets and glasses on. We were escorted to the plane and went flying. As it was my first time I didn't do many aerobatics but I did get to do a barrel roll and a rapid right turn. After I landed we came home and ate at McDonalds **Cadet O'Sullivan**

Christmas Lights Switch On

On the 20th November 08 the cadets and staff attended the Christmas Lights switch on. We went recruiting and helped

with various activities including controlling the snow machines. At the most we recruited about 10 new cadets. We do the Christmas Lights every year. This is great for the Bicester Community and we are praised for what we do. **Cadet Giles.**

We also held a raffle at the switch on and raised £100. Congratulations go to Mandy Scott, who won the enormous St Bernard dog.



Mandy Scott with her raffle prize

Round Table Fireworks Display

A big pat on the back to all the cadets who turned out on a rainy night to marshal at the Round Table fireworks display in Pingle field on Bonfire Night. The weather was atrocious but the cadets did their bit for the community.

Christmas festivities



Cdt Woods (left) in his mummy outfit

As usual the Cadets celebrated Christmas at the Squadron with a fancy dress and quiz night on the Tuesday before the Christmas break and a Christmas party on the Thursday. Every cadet (and

most staff members) came in fancy dress to the quiz night and prizes for the best dress went to Cdt Wood (dressed as a mummy) for the boys, and Cdt Peck (dressed as Bat Girl) for the girls.



Cadet Peck as Bat Girl

BTEC Qualifications

Several of our older (16+) cadets are well on their way to achieving the BTEC First Diploma in Preparation for Public Services. This qualification is equivalent to 4 GCSEs at Grades A – C. Three quarters of the work is completed through normal parade night, and weekend activities such as First Aid Training, D of E Expeditions, Adventure Training and NCO Courses. The other quarter is done through a workbook and project about applying for a job in a Uniformed Public Service.

This exercise is useful if cadets are looking for any type of work, as the lessons contains all sorts of useful advice on writing CVs and filling in application forms, and there is a mock interview.

Bag packing at Sainsbury's

On 21 December the Squadron packed bags at Sainsbury's Kidlington for the second Christmas running. This year we raised a huge total of £1150 for our funds and had many compliments from the customers.

Cadets Visit the Hovercraft Show



A hot sunny day at the Hovercraft Show

At the end of August, on what was probably the only sunny day of the summer, Mr Gidney and Mr Brafield took 12 cadets on a trip to the Royal Naval Hovercraft Unit at Lee on Solent to visit the annual hovercraft show. The trip proved to be nostalgic for Mr Gidney who revisited his naval history as a member of the Fleet Air Arm. The group also visited the Fleet Air Arm Second World War Memorial.



The cadets visit the Fleet Air Arm Memorial

Cpl Howlett recalled the visit – 'The Hovershow is organised and run by the Hovercraft Museum Trust, who look after and restore the hovercraft whilst displaying their sheer power to the public eye. Upon arriving we had breakfast in a nearby café and then made our way to the show. The show featured displays from a range of hovercrafts, old and new, big and small. There was also a chance to go inside them whilst taking a trip on the water or whilst stationary. The

exhibition featured many exciting and interactive activities. After visiting the whole exhibition, we took a walk down to the nearby beach where we sunbathed and swam in the sea. Overall our visit to the Hovershow 2008 was a very enjoyable and memorable day and I am sure that we all hope to visit again next year.

New features on the Squadron Website

Look out for several new features on the Squadron Website.

Cadets can now sign up online for various activities including courses and adventure training activities. All of the course and activity details have added information about uniform requirements, transport arrangements, lunch etc. so cadets can ensure they are properly prepared for the activity. The information cadets can access also holds phone numbers of staff members so they can make contact if they are unexpectedly not available to attend the event at the last minute. Parents are also able to view the lists of activities and see what their child has their name down for.

Also look out for the exam revision assistance pages, which contain interactive activities to help cadets prepare for exams.

If you would like further information on how to access features on the website or obtain your password, speak to Plt Off Azizian.

40 at 40 Thames Valley Police Grant

2507 Squadron were fortunate to be awarded a grant as part of Thames Valley Police's 40 at 40 scheme, where 40 youth organisations were awarded £1000 each in celebration of Thames Valley Police's 40th Birthday. Thank you and Happy Birthday to them.



Sgts Williams & Smith collect the cheque

Intake Adventure Training Weekend Youlbury – October 08

Intake 20 took part in the second Intake Adventure Training Weekend in October at Youlbury Scout Camp.



(L to R) Jones, Webb, Bickley and Dodds transport water over a volcano!

The cadets who took part found it an exciting and fun filled weekend. The next adventure training weekend will be from March 6 to 8 for Intake 21.

CONTACT US

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