

The Forces' favourite paper

Music Prom Queen Katie

● See R'n'R pp4-5



WIN Signed Nichol book

● See p17



Win!

ROYAL AIR FORCE

Friday July 2 2021
No. 1515 **70p**

RAF NEWS



ACM Sir Stuart's NATO farewell

Alliance's first RAF chief on combating emerging threats to global peace: p19



New boss Shaking up the system



● See p30-31

Fishing Back on the bank



● See p28

Herc Para drop lifts Gulf drill



Simon Mander

HERCULES TRANSPORTERS flew elite paratroopers on a major exercise in the Middle East as Britain's Carrier Strike Group led by HMS Queen Elizabeth heads from the Mediterranean to the Indian Ocean.

Three C-130J aircraft took part in the sortie inserting between 70-80 soldiers and containers loaded with combat kit.

Typhoon fighter jets escorted the Hercules force to the drop zone, where other aircrew guided troops out of the rear of the aircraft on a training descent.

Among those taking part were Pathfinders trained in specialist airborne combat insertion techniques.

The group are the advance force for 16 Air Assault Brigade, used to locate drop zones and landing zones where troops can be parachuted in by altitude or landed by helicopter.



RAF SPORTS LOTTERY

HAVE YOU GOT YOUR 6TH TICKET?

Play for as little as **£1** per ticket whilst supporting your RAF charity and you could be our next **£10,000** jackpot winner!

INCREASE YOUR TICKET HOLDING TODAY:

rafsports@sterlinglotteries.co.uk



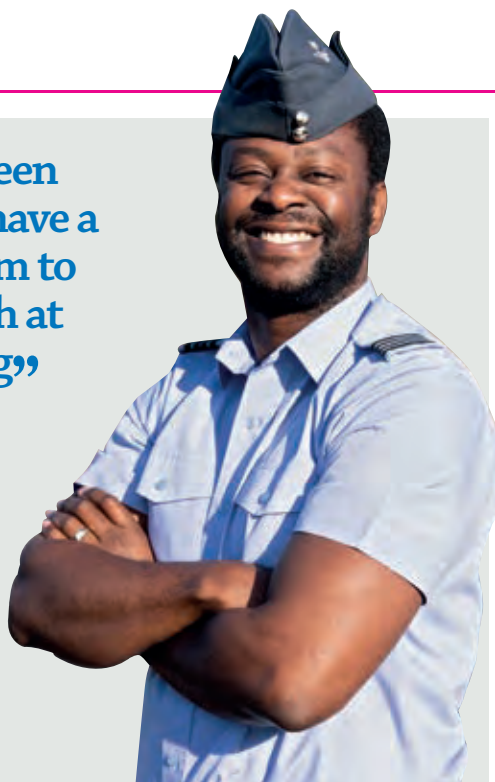
   [RAFCentralFund](#)

BeGambleAware.org

The RAF Sports Lottery operates as a society lottery within the Royal Air Force Central Fund and is licensed and regulated by the Gambling Commission (www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk). The Royal Air Force Central Fund is a company registered in England and Wales 8555984, Charity registered in England and Wales 1152560, Charity registered in Scotland SC044299.

“I’ve been lucky to have a great team to work with at Wittering”

Diversity champion Kyle Roachford, who has been made an MBE
See p9



“Our aim has only ever been to make great music”

Sharleen Spitiri of Texas on the band’s new album
See R’n’R p4



“It’s been a tough time for anyone involved in sport, inside or outside the Armed Forces”

The new Deputy Director of Sport Callum Whitton
See p30



Afghan bow for Puma



RAF News

RAF News
Room 68
Lancaster Building
HQ Air Command
High Wycombe
Buckinghamshire
HP14 4UE

Editor: Simon Williams
Email: editor@rafnews.co.uk

Features Editor: Tracey Allen
Email: tracey.allen@rafnews.co.uk

News Editor: Simon Mander

Sports Editor: Daniel Abrahams
Email: sports@rafnews.co.uk

All advertising:
Edwin Rodrigues
Tel: 07482 571535
Email: edwin.rodrigues@rafnews.co.uk

Subscriptions and distribution:
RAF News Subscriptions, c/o
Intermedia, Unit 6 The Enterprise
Centre, Kelvin Lane, Crawley
RH10 9PE
Tel: 01293 312191 (Lines open
Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm)
Email: rafnewssubs@
subscriptionhelpline.co.uk

Simon Mander

PUMA HELICOPTERS have returned to the UK after six years on the frontline in Afghanistan.

Three aircraft were flown from Kabul to Brize Norton on an Antonov AN-225 as part of the Nato withdrawal from the country.

Since the start of their mission in March 2015, the Benson-based unit of 50 personnel from 33 and 230 Squadrons have flown 12,800 hours – the equivalent of more than 533 days – transporting 126,000 passengers and 660,000kg of freight.

Joint Helicopter Command chief Air Vice-Marshal Nigel Colman said: “The RAF Puma Force have done a superb job in supporting the UK’s mission to train, advise and assist the Afghan National Defence and Security Forces since 2015.

“Their contribution over such a sustained period has been second to none and they can be incredibly proud of the significant part they played.”

During the deployment, codenamed Operation Toral, the Pumas were based at Kabul International Airport flying Coalition forces around urban, mountainous and desert terrains and supporting the Nato Security Quick Reaction Forces.



NATO MISSION: 33 and 230 Sqn Pumas return to RAF Benson after six years supporting Afghan Defence Force and Security Services from Kabul. *Inset right, helicopters are loaded onto giant Antonov transporter for flight back to the UK*

This Week In History



1944

Normandy raids

BOMBER COMMAND launches Operation Charnwood attacking German positions in Normandy to support the Canadian 1st and British 2nd Armies north of Caen.

1969

Polaris takes over

THE RAF'S Quick Reaction Alert V-Force is terminated as responsibility for Britain’s nuclear deterrent passes to the Royal Navy’s Polaris submarines.



1988

Sea King rig rescue

SEA KING crews from Boulmer and Lossiemouth rescue survivors of the Piper Alpha oil rig disaster in the North Sea which claimed 167 lives.

Extracts from *The Royal Air Force Day By Day* by Air Cdre Graham Pitchfork (The History Press)

SIERRA ALPHA VICTOR ECHO



PUMA ECOBOOST MILD HYBRID

PROUD TO OFFER CURRENT AND FORMER MILITARY PERSONNEL SAVINGS ON SELECTED VEHICLES.



**BRING ON
TOMORROW**

Model shown is a New Puma ST-Line X 1.0 155PS Mild Hybrid Electric Vehicle (MHEV) Petrol 6 speed manual with optional LED Headlights and Driver Assistance Pack. Fuel economy mpg (l/100km) (Combined): 47.9 (5.9). CO₂ emissions 135g/km.

Vehicle shown may not reflect latest UK specifications.

Figures shown are for comparability purposes only; they only compare fuel consumption and CO₂ figures with other cars tested to the same technical procedures. These figures may not reflect real life driving results, which will depend upon a number of factors including the accessories fitted (post-registration), variations in weather, driving styles and vehicle load.

Search: Ford Military Sales

ford.co.uk

In Brief



FAMILY AFFAIR: Fg Off Lucy and Plt Off Hannah Taylor at RAF College Cranwell

Cranwell Sister act

AIR FORCE sisters Hannah and Lucy Taylor are keeping up the family tradition as they graduate from Cranwell together.

Fg Off Lucy and Plt Off Hannah, who grew up in a Royal Air Force family, hit the parade ground after completing their tough 24-week training course.

● See p21 for full graduation report.



BIKE BID: 78 Sqn riders set for challenge

Five go mad in Swanwick

78 SQUADRON charity crusaders from Swanwick are launching a bid to clock up 150 miles to raise funds for the RAF Association.

Training for the event hit the skids when rider SAC Alex Jones fractured his wrist but the five-strong team say they are on target to finish the gruelling fundraiser.

Organiser Sgt Steve Barrett said: "Alex fractured his wrist, grazed his knee and dented his pride but we hope he will be back in the saddle."

"This is certainly going to test our physical and mental agility."

"During training the team has covered 100 miles, which was tough, but to add an extra 50 miles is going to see us dig deep to reach the finish line."

Last stand for mighty Herc

C-130J delivers on Daesh frontline



Simon Mander

UNDER COVER of darkness an RAF transporter continues to carry out vital supply runs in support of operations across the Middle East.

The Brize-based Hercules C-130J – an iconic aircraft type, part of the longest continuous production run in the history of military aviation – is to be replaced by the A400M Atlas.

But for now, the focus of the detachment of both 47 and XXIV Sqn personnel on board is on continuing to deliver tactical air transport in some of the most challenging and austere conditions.

Commander Sqn Ldr Fairley said: "The C-130J has provided the backbone to the RAF's tactical airlift capability in the Middle East since the start of Op Shader in 2014.

"We routinely operate under the cover of darkness to deliver critical support across the Middle East enabling the ongoing fight against Daesh in Iraq and Syria."

Op Shader began in August 2014 when C-130s carried out vital aid drops on to Mount Sinjar in Northern Iraq following the genocide of the Yazidi people.

The Hercules was the first RAF aircraft involved in the mission, carrying out seven successful deliveries of water, shelter and supplies.

Following surveillance sorties by Rivet Joint, Tornados, Sentinel and E-3D aircraft the first airstrike against Islamist terror targets took place on September 30.



SPECIAL DELIVERY: Hercules crew come into land. Inset left, engineers carry out pre-flight checks



Today the Hercules detachment moves on average more than 200 troops and up to 40 tonnes of freight in support of the mission, ranging from critical aircraft and vehicle spares to Covid-19 vaccines for deployed forces.

And its range of operations has increased to back up Britain's maritime presence in the Gulf region and the Indian Ocean, ensuring the safe flow of oil and trade and combatting narcotics and piracy.

That mission, codenamed Op Kipion, is run from a Bahrain-based HQ which directs a four-strong squadron of Royal Navy

minehunters with a Royal Fleet Auxiliary support ship that maintain a conspicuous presence in the region. C-130 flights typically include RAF Gunners to provide security, ground engineers to conduct essential checks and maintenance and movers to load and unload passengers and cargo, making each sortie self-supporting.

C-130J engineer Sgt Matt Angell said: "I accompany the aircraft wherever it may go around the world, to provide engineering support and address any issues that may arise away from our base."

"The ability for us to fly with the C-130 means we can cover everything from flight servicing to refuels to ensure the aircraft delivers its operational tasking."

A fresh start: Hit the gym

The world is changing and the outdoors is more important than ever. We're changing too - for the better and for the planet - but some things are here to stay. Our passion, expertise and the very best brands are right where they've always been, ready to help you find a fresh start outdoors. Because everyone is happier outside.

15% discount in-store and online

for all Armed Forces personnel, veterans
and cadets using code AF-MOD-2B

Full T&Cs apply. Please see online for details. Offer expires 31.12.21.

OUTSIDE is the new inside

cotswoldoutdoor.com

COTSWOLD
outdoor



UK Lightning Lizzie launch targets Daesh



STEALTH JETS have launched their first combat missions from the decks of HMS Queen Elizabeth.

British and American Lightnings conducted reconnaissance sorties against Daesh targets from the UK aircraft carrier across the Middle East backed by RAF Voyager tankers.

Strike Group Commander Commodore Steve Moorhouse said: "Now we are ready to

deliver the hard punch of maritime-based air power against a shared enemy."

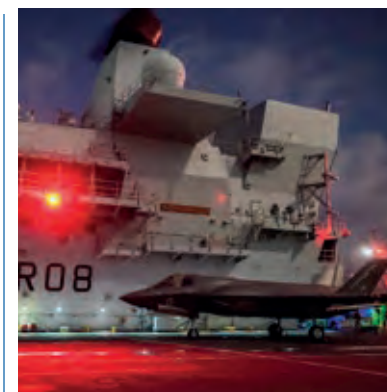
The current joint RAF-Royal Navy deployment is the largest concentration of air and maritime power to leave Britain in a generation with 18 UK and US F-35s on board the flagship.

Defence Secretary Ben Wallace said: "The ability to operate from the sea with the most advanced fighter jets ever created is a

significant moment in our history.

"The Carrier Strike Group is a physical embodiment of Global Britain and a show of international military strength that will deter anyone who seeks to undermine global security."

It's the second time F-35s of 617 (Dambusters) Squadron have conducted Operation Shader missions since their debut deployment to Cyprus on Exercise Lightning Dawn in 2019.



MULTI NATIONAL: UK F-35 joins US and French combat jets in Atlantic drill.

Carrier flexes Nato muscle

LIGHTNING AIRCREWS scrambled to get airborne from the decks of Britain's flagship aircraft carrier as the largest deployment of fifth-generation fighter jets in history got underway.

Less than 48 hours after departing UK waters, the first combat air manoeuvres of the Carrier Strike Group 21 mission began.

Exercise Atlantic Trident saw British and US F-35Bs from HMS Queen Elizabeth working with French aircraft and RAF Typhoons in the Bay of Biscay to bring about closer integration, greater combat readiness and better fighting capability between the UK and its two closest defence partners.

RAF and USAF Lightnings also joined other F-35Bs from the US, Italy and Israel for Exercise Falcon Strike 21, designed to integrate fourth and fifth-generation aircraft and apply their advanced capabilities to an increasingly complex and contested battle space.

During its seven-month deployment the Strike Group will work with more than 40 countries from around the world.

The maritime force includes ships from the United States Navy, The Dutch Navy, a force of US Marines, British frigates, destroyers, two RFA supply ships and aircraft from 617 (Dambusters) Sqn, 820 NAS, 815 NAS and 845 NAS.

Russia test for Typhoon sky police

Simon Mander

TYPHOONS TEAMED up with two destroyers from Britain's Carrier Strike Group to hone their maritime combat skills.

The RAF Lossiemouth-based IX (Bomber) Sqn jets, currently on Nato Air Policing duties in Romania, flew out to meet HMS Evertsen and Dutch ship HNLMS Evensen in the Black Sea.

The jets conducted air-maritime integration training with the warships supported by an RAF E-3D Sentry and a French Navy Atlantique long-range maritime patrol aircraft.

On their return to Mihail Kogălniceanu Air Base the

Typhoons diverted to carry out a practice intercept of a Romanian MIG-21 LanceR aircraft.

121 Expeditionary Air Wing Commanding Officer Wg Cdr Stephen Lamping said: "These training sorties provide us with a valuable test of our reach.

"This exercise is a visible demonstration of our commitment to the Alliance and our ability to operate effectively with allies in the air and at sea."

A pair of RAF fighters later saw off Russian fighters entering Romanian-controlled airspace in the first launch of their latest Baltic air policing mission.

Lossiemouth-based jets scrambled from Mihail Kogălniceanu Air Base

after several Russian SU-24 Fencer and SU-30 Flanker aircraft were tracked approaching without having filed flight plans or contacted air traffic controllers.

A spokesman said Russian aircraft left the area before the IX (Bomber) Sqn Eurofighters came within visual range of them.

Wg Cdr Lamping added: "The successful first scramble demonstrates that we are fully integrated into the Nato air policing system from our operating base here in Romania."

It's the third time the RAF has deployed on the Alliance's enhanced air policing mission, codenamed Operation Biloxi, in the Black Sea region.



SKY GUARDIANS: Typhoons deployed to protect Nato airspace in Romania join carrier exercises over Black Sea before intercepting Russian aircraft



**Royal Air Force
Benevolent Fund**

**SUPPORTING SERVING AND
FORMER MEMBERS OF THE
RAF AND THEIR FAMILIES**

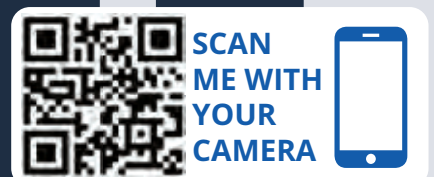
DID YOU KNOW WE OFFER COUNSELLING?

For serving or former
RAF personnel and their
families, we can provide:

- ✓ Funded counselling
and therapy
- ✓ Counselling for
children and
young people
aged five to 18
- ✓ Access to an online
wellbeing zone.

Talking changes lives.

FREE CALL
0300 102 1919
rafbf.org/welfare



News

Glass act at Scampton

BOMBER county's RAF heritage has been celebrated in a new stained glass window unveiled in a Lincolnshire village.

The installation at Scampton church features a Lancaster, Vulcan and the Red Arrows flying in formation.

The two-year project started before it was confirmed that the historic former Dambusters base would be shut and sold to save £3bn by 2040.

But the aerobatics acs will remain in Lincolnshire and move to a new home at Waddington.



HISTORIC: New window features Lancaster, Vulcan and Red Arrows in tribute to Scampton

CAS welcomes US space chief

UK AND US air chiefs held talks on joint operations during a visit to UK Space Command headquarters at High Wycombe.

US Space Command head Gen James Dickinson said: "Our allies and partners are the greatest advantage we have, and the UK remains one of our closest allies in all domains."

"Building strong alliances is a core part of our strategy to preserve free and open access to the benefits of space."

The first American visit was hosted by the Chief of the Air Staff, ACM Sir Mike Wigston.

UK Space Command chief Air Vice-Marshal Paul Godfrey said: "The global future is uncertain, but



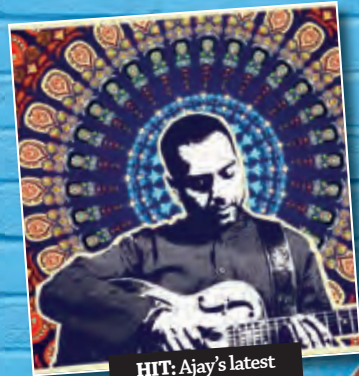
VISIT: Chief of the Air Staff Sir Mike Wigston, meets US Space Command's Gen Dickinson at RAF Space Command

both the UK and US are aligned to ensure space is safe for all to use."

Opened in April this year the Buckinghamshire Command oversees space operations, training and capability.

Van-quisthed

Ajay outsells Irish legend to top iTunes



HIT: Ajay's latest



STAR: Van Morrison



Tracey Allen

RAF MUSEUM PR man Ajay Srivastav stormed to number one on the iTunes Blues charts, beating Irish songwriting legend Van Morrison and US Indie stars The Black Keys to the top spot.

And it's not the first time he's done it - the talented musician, who writes his own songs and has just released his second album, *Powerless*, made number one in the Amazon Blues Charts in 2019 with his debut *Karmic Blues*, outselling US guitarist Joe Bonamassa.

Ajay said: "Getting to Number 1 again is amazing. It's totally unexpected."

Two releases from *Powerless* - *Golden* and *The Path* - both topped the download chart, and so did the album.

Ajay, who runs public relations for the RAF Museum in Hendon, sings and plays guitar and harmonica on the album and wrote all of its 10 tracks.

He added: "The songs are the product of a crossfire hurricane of influences, drawing equally from the Mississippi Delta that sired the blues and the Varanasi ghats [in northern India] where prayers, birth-rites and coming-of-age

ceremonies are performed beside the Ganges.

"I wanted to have a positive message on the new album, to be spiritual but bluesy."

Ajay, whose family hail from the holy city of Varanasi, said: "The story of the single *Golden* is based on the Vedic philosophy of existence which is in three parts - creation, sustenance and destruction, which leads to recreation.

"Each part has a god attached to it. I was always fascinated by that and always wanted to write a song about it."

He added: "The album opens with *The Line*, which is all about the polarised times we live in, and it closes with *Shanti*, this Sanskrit mantra for peace of mind.

"Inner peace and inner strength are what this album is ultimately about. If you're sorted on the inside, the chaos of the outside world can't get you."

Powerless also features tabla player Vinod Kerai, drummer Michelle Myrie and Daniel Selway on upright bass.

It's available to buy from Amazon, Spotify and Ajay's website: ajayhq.com - where you can also find a list of live dates.

Ajay will be performing around the country throughout the summer and autumn, up to December 12.

In Brief



COVID BATTLE: More than 5000 Forces personnel called in to support NHS

Brits miss Forces Covid crisis role

Staff Reporter

NEARLY HALF of Brits say they are unaware of the role of the military in the UK's fight against Covid - which saw the biggest ever peacetime deployment of Forces personnel - according to a survey.

The poll by charity SSAFA also revealed that although 70 per cent expressed admiration for NHS workers less than a quarter said they appreciated the work of Army, Navy and RAF teams during the crisis.

More than 5,000 military personnel were brought in to help set up Nightingale hospitals, transport PPE equipment and medical teams across the country and support vaccination and testing stations nationwide.

Forty per cent of those surveyed said they admired the role of retail staff during the pandemic - nearly twice the level of support shown to the British Armed Forces.

Survey chief

Sally Orange

said: "The last 18

months have been

incredibly difficult

for everyone, but

particularly for

our key workers.

Serving personnel

stepped up to

support the Covid

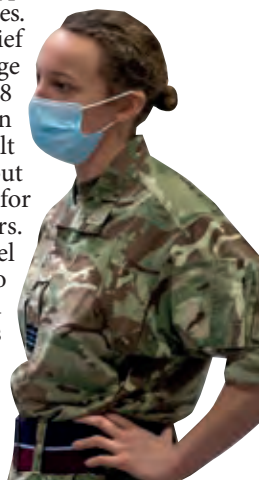
frontline. It is

important that

we take the time

to pause and give

thanks to them."





Equality struggle

MILITARY WOMEN still struggle to fit in with a macho culture and experience significant negative gender stereotyping and sexism, according to a major new report.

Pressure on them to adopt masculine traits and accept 'banter' to fit in may negatively impact on their psychological wellbeing say researchers.

The report calls on the MoD to implement the findings of the Wigston review, by the current Chief of the Air Staff, into inappropriate behaviours, published in 2019, as a priority.

Author Dr Lauren Godier-McBard said: "There remains a lot to do to make women feel like they truly belong in the Armed Forces in 2021."

"The UK lags behind other countries such as the United States when it comes to research on women's lived experiences in the military, and this report is the first to examine the full range of issues facing them."

"We hope the recommendations in this report will be acknowledged and acted upon as priority issues."

The report, *We Also Served: The Health and Wellbeing of Female Veterans in the UK*, was undertaken by Anglia Ruskin University and drew on contributions from more than 30 organisations including the MoD.

It found that a large proportion of women have experienced significant negative gender stereotyping and sexual harassment during military service.

There was also concern over barriers to ex-Servicewomen accessing support for 'veterans,' as they are less likely to identify with the term.

Women now make up 11 per cent of the UK Armed Forces and veteran population with the RAF currently having the highest proportion of females at 14.9 per cent..

Veterans Minister Leo Docherty, said: "We are committed to improving the experience for women in the Armed Forces in every area of their lives. We will study this report's findings and recommendations closely."

REFORM: ACM Sir Mike Wigston

Diversity champ Kyle nets honour

Staff Reporter

AIR FORCE Diversity Champion Kyle Roachford is celebrating after netting a Royal award in The Queen's Birthday Honours.

The Wittering Base Support chief received an MBE for his work as chairman of the RAF's Black Asian Minority Ethnic Network.

He said: "I've been lucky in having the right skills and lived experience to prepare me for this role and a brilliant and supportive team to work with."

He was joined by other station personnel in the latest round of awards.

Meritorious Service Medals were awarded to Community and Careers Liaison Officer WO Emma Hanson and Caterer FS Steve Harland.



AWARD: FS Harland

FS Harland said: "I was extremely shocked and proud to have even been considered for the nomination."

"I am just grateful to have such a supportive family and team around me over my past two tours here at Wittering, allowing me to capitalise on the opportunities that I have."

And one of the station's most experienced engineers, Officer Commanding No 71 Inspection and Repair Squadron, Sqn Ldr Phil Hayward, received a Chief of the Air Staff's commendation.

Station Commander Wg Cdr Jez Case said: "It is fantastic to be able to recognise those personnel who have gone above and beyond what I expect and have shown dedication over months and years."

CAMPAIGNER: Sqn Ldr Kyle Roachford has been awarded the MBE in recognition of his work with the RAF BAME Network



Tragic bomber crew honoured

Simon Mander

FAMILIES OF aircrew killed in a wartime friendly fire tragedy have unveiled a new memorial to the seven men who died.

Their 207 Sqn Manchester bomber was mistakenly shot down by an RAF Beaufighter night fighter having taken off from Waddington for a raid on Boulogne docks in Occupied France.

To commemorate the 80th anniversary of the crash - near Wollaston in Northamptonshire - relatives, members of today's Marham-based 207 Sqn, veterans, cadets and civic leaders unveiled the monument.

Cllr Lindsay Alvis said: "The pandemic has reminded us of those who serve our nation in peace and war."

"Captain Sir Tom Moore, who lived so close to us, was the perfect example of someone who understood the importance of recognising service and commitment."

"The loss of this aircraft was the result of a tragic accident but those airmen deserve to be remembered."

"It was important for us to acknowledge them and we are delighted that so many family members have joined us to do that."

The crew who died were: Fg Off J



Withers, Sgt A James, FS W Brown, FS MV Browne, FS A Malone and Sgt JA Maville

Canadian airman Sgt Maville's family were represented by Lt Col Pierre Theriault from the Canadian High Commission.

207 Sqn's Wg Cdr Scott Williams said: "The squadron played an important role throughout the war and we are proud to continue their legacy with the F-35 Lightning Force."

"We owe our freedom to those who served and, in particular, those

who lost their lives. It is a privilege to be here to remember the crew of L7314 and to meet the families."

The twin-engined Avro 679 Manchester heavy bomber flew for the first time in 1939 but was replaced by the Lancaster.



Join us in saying **Thank you** to our **Armed Forces**

Over the last year we have seen how vital the Armed Forces are for our nation. With **more than 5,000** deployed on the largest resilience operation in peacetime. From building the Nightingale hospitals across the UK to managing pilot Covid-testing systems nationwide and going into hospitals to help deal with the influx of COVID patients. Whenever they are called upon, the Forces are there to ensure we, as a country, are looked after and kept safe, despite the risk it poses to these individuals.

SSAFA, the Armed Forces charity is here to help support those in the Armed Forces community when they turn to us for help. After everything they do for us, it is only right we are there for them in their hour of need.

LEARN MORE NOW
about our support
for serving personnel

ssafa.org.uk/moreforyou

ssafa | the
Armed Forces
charity

Regulars | Reserves | Veterans | Families

POWERING PROGRESS DEFINING YOUR FUTURE



AEROSPACE
ZONE



LAND
ZONE



NAVAL
ZONE



JOINT
ZONE



SECURITY
ZONE

UK MOD AWARDED LARGEST INVESTMENT IN 30 YEARS

DEMONSTRATE YOUR COMPANY'S CAPABILITIES AS THE UK
COMMITTS AN ADDITIONAL £16.5 BILLION TO DEFENCE SPENDING

BOOK TO PARTICIPATE: WWW.DSEI.CO.UK

Supported by



Follow us on



DSEI



@DSEI_event

Organised by



Cadets hit road to celebrate 80th

Staff Reporter

AIR CADETS are launching a fundraising campaign to celebrate their 80th anniversary.

Youngsters have 80 days to complete 80 miles each over the next two months to raise £80,000 for the organisation and military charity the RAF Benevolent Fund.

Thousands will be joining the fundraising drive – including the ATC's chief Air Cdre Tony Keeling.

He said: "I for one will be running and cycling 80 miles as part of the challenge and I hope our cadets will all join me."

According to recruitment statistics, more than a quarter of young people who join the Air Cadets go on to join the Royal Air Force.

To coincide with the anniversary, the Fund has announced enhanced support for Air Cadets, including Air Training Corps (ATC) and Combined Cadet Force (CCF) members.

They can access welfare services and support to help with personal problems, counselling and bereavement. Financial support is also given if a member is killed on or off duty.

Benevolent



CHIEF: Air Cdre Keeling

Fund director of fundraising and communications Mike Straney said: "When the Fund asks, the cadets are there for us. They make a real difference at our

fundraising events, cheering on our supporters and often taking part themselves."

The CCF and ATC are known jointly as the Air Cadets and provide youngsters from the age of 13 with adventure training and basic flying

skills.

The Fund is gathering memories of those who were cadets to form a commemorative book, with testimonies collected online.

● **Do you recognise the cadets in our pictures? Email: editor@rafnews.co.uk**

CORPS BLIMEY: ATC join 56 Sqn Lightning F3 Display pilots at 5 Wattisham in 1965; inset left, Parade drill at Hendon for 120 Sqn in December 1961

In Brief



ON AIR: Arrows will be performing their latest show-stopping display at air tattoo

Stream on

AIRSHOW FANS will get to see this year's Royal International Air Tattoo for free via a live streamed webcast.

Organisers of the world's biggest military air show are hoping to net a global audience of millions with the virtual event.

Plans to welcome more than 150,000 aviation fans to Fairford this month were scrapped for the second year running due to Covid restrictions.

The six-hour programme featuring an international line-up including the RAF's Red Arrows and Typhoon and Chinook display teams will be hosted from a live studio at the Gloucestershire airbase on July 17 from 10am.

RIAT's Helen Webb said: "The virtual event will capture some of the thrills and excitement of being at the real thing and we will be making sure we have the opportunity to celebrate the airshow's 50th anniversary. It will be an unmissable event for aviation fans." ● **Go to airtattoo.com/virtual**

Tribute to India's forgotten WWI heroes

Staff Reporter

SIKH and Hindu soldiers who died from combat injuries during the First World War have been honoured by Royal Air Force personnel at a unique memorial on the Sussex Downs.

More than 2,000 troops were cremated in line with their religious faith between 1914 and 1916 on the site of the Chattri Monument, one mile north-east of Patcham.

The casualties died after being evacuated from the frontline to Brighton's Royal Pavilion Estate, then a military hospital.

The nine-metre-high marble structure stands 500ft above sea level and this year marks its centenary.

Wg Cdr Manjeet Ghataora, who represented the RAF at the event, said: "I have been going to the memorial service for almost 15 years.

"This once forgotten monument has now become a permanent reminder for many who, like myself, had little knowledge of just how many Indian soldiers had fought and lost their lives in the Great War."



MEMORIAL: Families gathered to remember the fallen at the Chattri Monument in Sussex

The ceremony was scaled back this year due to coronavirus restrictions, but a socially-distanced service took place and

wreaths were laid by Army, Navy and RAF representatives

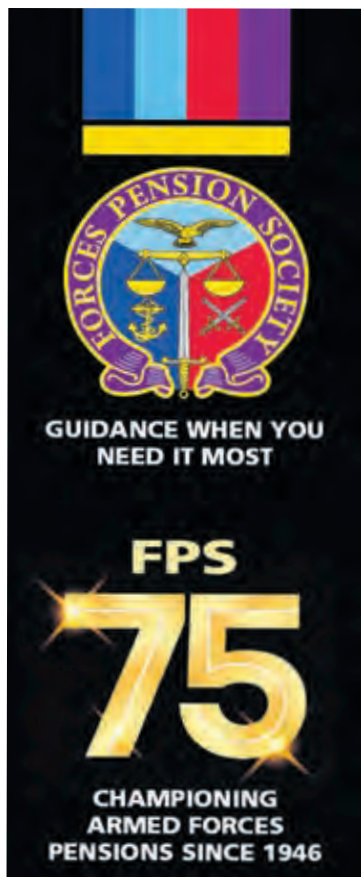
Wg Cdr Ghataora said: "This year I was honoured to lay a wreath

alongside my RAF Hindu, Muslim and Christian colleagues.

"Many in attendance were supported by their families and

this year my mother and my close relatives also supported the event, all of whom also had little idea of what had taken place here."

Making sure that the McCloud pension decision works for you



The Forces Pension Society is an independent, not-for-profit organisation that acts as a pension watchdog for the entire military community.

NOW that the outcome of the McCloud consultation has been reached, in line with the recommendations of the Forces Pension Society and others, we need to ensure that it is implemented in the best possible way for all those affected by it.

You will recall that the chosen remedy for the age discrimination issue is "Deferred Choice Underpin", meaning that when benefits become payable, all those impacted (all personnel in service both on or before 31st March 2012 and on or after 1st April 2015, including service leavers) will be able to choose between the benefits of their legacy scheme (AFPS 75 or 05) or the reformed scheme (AFPS 15) for the period of their service between 1st April 2015 and 31st March 2022.

We have made a presentation to the MoD setting out three key criteria against which we will judge the success of the implementation of the remedy. And I want to share those criteria with you as follows:

(1) **everyone affected will be given sufficient time and information to make a fully informed decision.**

(2) **For serving personnel, timely and**

From Maj Gen Neil Marshall, CEO of the Forces Pension Society

We are on hand to help you to make the right choices

appropriate enhancements to the AFPS calculator will be made to help individuals forecast their likely benefits.

(3) Those with complicating factors, including Pension Sharing Orders, Medical Discharge, Abatement, Death in Service or in Retirement, AVCs/Added Pension and Pension Taxation (Annual Allowance, Lifetime Allowance), should have access to further information and guidance from the Pension Administrator, Veterans' UK.

This initiative is in line with the Society's practice of holding governments to account on behalf of our Members and the wider Armed Forces Community.

As always, the Society will be on hand to guide Members through the decision-making process when the time comes.

In the meantime if you would like to join the Society or find out more about our work, please visit: www.forcespension society.org



● INFORMED DECISIONS: Maj Gen Neil Marshall



Your WelComE account card...

A **WelComE account card** is assigned to you for your entire military career and can be used to access **telephone** and **Internet** services whilst deployed.

You should receive it after basic training. If you haven't been given it, speak to your admin officer. For more information visit:

www.mywelcome.co.uk

WELFARE

Lost your account card? No worries! Speak to your admin officer who will be able to provide you with your WelComE account number and a password to reset your PIN.

You can't Hurri love

Simon Mander

TWO FAST jet vets took a step back in time to win their 'wings', as the latest Hurricane display pilots – after months of training on vintage aircraft.

Coningsby station commander Gp Capt Matt Peterson and 29 Sqn's commander Sqn Ldr Mark Long were finally cleared for take-off in the BBMF's Hurricane PZ865 after completing old-school instruction on the dual-controlled Chipmunk and Harvard 'tail draggers'.

Gp Capt Peterson said: "It was an incredible privilege to follow in the footsteps of all those brave pilots who flew these wonderful aircraft in the defence of our country. I am now looking forward to displaying this invaluable piece of our

national heritage at events around the country as we recover from Covid-19."

Sqn Ldr Long, who will complete four years as a BBMF volunteer before taking command in October 2024, said: "Flying the Hurricane is a privilege I would never have imagined possible when I first started my RAF career.

"The aircraft is awe-inspiring in so many ways and words cannot truly describe the sensation of flying such an iconic machine."

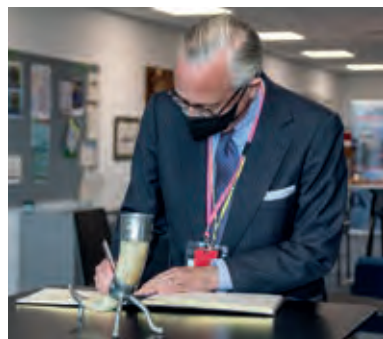
Both pilots will take part in flypasts and displays at events across the country this summer.



GOING SOLO: Gp Capt Peterson



New Poseidon sub-hunter salutes WWII Iceland link



ICEMAN COMETH: Ambassador Sigurjónsson signs in at Lossiemouth

Simon Mander

HISTORIC LINKS between Britain and Iceland have been strengthened by a VIP visit to Lossiemouth.

A wartime alliance that saw RAF Liberators stationed in the Nordic nation's capital to counter the Nazi U-boat threat to vital Atlantic supply convoys was reinforced at the Scottish airbase.

Icelandic Ambassador Sturla Sigurjónsson and his wife Elín Jónsdóttir arrived in Moray to tour 120 Sqn Poseidon maritime patrol aircraft ZP804, named Spirit of Reykjavik in honour of the ties between the two nations.

Lossiemouth Station Commander Gp Capt Chris Layden said: "At our darkest hour, the people of Iceland welcomed the RAF and their support was crucial to our victory in the Battle of the Atlantic.



TRIBUTE: 120 Sqn commander Wg Cdr James Hanson gives Icelandic Ambassador Sturla Sigurjónsson a tour of the latest P8 arrival at Lossiemouth

"Now, as then, our two nations remain firm friends and partners in the cause of Euro-Atlantic security."

Mr Sigurjónsson said: "Peace, stability and security in the North Atlantic is of fundamental importance to Iceland. This has been our objective for decades, achieved in close consultation and cooperation with our Allies.

"We welcome and appreciate the UK's contribution, including the return of British maritime patrol aircraft to the region."

From April 1943 to March 1944, 120 Sqn deployed seven Liberators to RAF Reykjavik to safeguard Allied shipping, bringing essential food and supplies to the UK.

King George VI later approved

the addition of an Icelandic Falcon, standing on a demi-terrestrial globe, as the official squadron badge – still used to this day.

Iceland remains a key strategic location for Nato Maritime Patrol Aircraft with nine Poseidon MRA Mk.1 aircraft ordered for the RAF and five delivered to date as part of a £470m investment in Lossiemouth.

In Brief



AVIATION FAN: Artist Jack exhibits his work at Newark Air Museum

Art ace's brush with museum

AUTISTIC ART ace Jack Berry, who took up drawing aircraft to help him cope during the coronavirus pandemic, has exhibited his work at an aviation museum.

A selection of the 14-year-old's paintings were displayed at Newark Air Museum recently after a collection of his work was published to raise cash for military charities.

His book *Flying High In The Sunlit Silence* features snippets from pilots about their flying experience, accompanied by Jack's illustrations.

Mum Sarasaid: "We do not have a Forces connection but because of Jack's love of the military, we wanted to help families like ours in the Armed Forces.

"It must be really, really hard to be in the Armed Forces, to be away when your child has additional needs and to know that your partner is looking after them 24/7."

Untold story of Gulf Tornado Force families

Former Nav's tribute to Op Granby comrades ...and the loved ones waiting for them at home

JOHAN NICHOL has scored a hat-trick with his latest book – *Tornado: In the Eye of the Storm* has hit number two in the bestsellers list, following the huge success of his previous titles, *Spitfire* and *Lancaster*.

His new book, the former Tornado navigator stressed, is vastly different from *Tornado Down*, the story of his and pilot John Peters' imprisonment when they were shot down and captured by Iraqi forces at the start of the first Gulf War.

For this new release, Nichol said: "I wanted to tell the story of the Tornado force and, most importantly, the story of the families – the families and loved ones are an integral part of the book.

"People know the story of the Gulf War but what the Tornado Force did was astonishing and I don't think it's even that well known within the RAF itself. It's 30 years ago – it's history now. I don't think many people really understood what the Tornado did on those crucial first days of the war and I wanted to tell that story and how it impacted on the families back home."

It may surprise some to learn that no one who flew the Tornado into battle in 1991 had ever fought a combat mission.

Nichol explained: "Before then, not one person had flown the Tornado for one single second in anger. There was a sense of excitement because we were



LOSS: OC 27 Sqn Bill Green, with wife Jenny, just weeks before his death

pioneers. We never expected to go to war, we were like firefighters who had never been to a blaze.

"There was a real sense of trepidation. We were given the opportunity to put ourselves to the test but we were flying, quite literally, into the unknown."

At the time the Tornado was the height of technical sophistication. On autopilot it could fly itself, with the pilot "hands off", at speeds of nearly 700mph and just 200 feet above the desert, in total darkness.

Nichol added: "The first operation on the first night was an absolute and utter surprise, people didn't know what to expect or what was going on."

A total of 11 Tornados were lost during the conflict itself and in intensive training before the war. Twelve aircrew were killed, three were badly injured and seven were taken prisoner. The POWs were all

brutally tortured and the bruised and battered faces of Nichol and Peters were paraded on television.

Interviewing family members of those who never returned was, admitted Nichol 'tricky'.

He said: "There were many tears shed when I was doing these interviews with those who lost loved ones as we recalled friends who had been killed, losses of aircraft, the fear. Some of them didn't make it in the end and that was quite tricky, talking to people whose loved ones didn't come home."

Pilot Flt Lt Dave Waddington and his navigator Flt Lt Robbie Stewart, were shot down and taken prisoner during a strike on Al Tallil airfield.

In *Tornado*, Nichol refers to Dave's mother's and father's realisation of the moment they knew something was terribly wrong, when there was a knock at the door at 1am and they saw two RAF officers in uniform.

One asked: 'Are you the parents of Flight Lieutenant Dave Waddington?'

Berenice Waddington, said Nichol, thought "Oh no, this is bad... They had brought our parish priest. I now knew it was very bad news."

The author also details Jenny Green's harrowing recollection of how she learnt of the death of her husband, Gp Capt Bill Green, OC 27 Squadron. A poignant photograph in the book shows Bill and Jenny smiling happily at the RAF Marham Officers' Mess summer ball in July 1990.

Just a few weeks later Bill was killed in a Tornado accident in the build-up to the first Gulf War.

Jenny recalled being woken up in the early hours by the urgent ringing of the front doorbell. Through the door's spyhole she could see Marham's Station Commander Jock Stirrup (later

Chief of the Defence Staff) standing outside in full dress uniform.

She said: "My life changed forever in a split second. I instantly knew what had happened. I couldn't open the door. I just sat at the bottom of the stairs. Poor Jock had to stand outside while I composed myself."

Nichol doesn't shy away from confronting the toll war takes on the mental health of military personnel – a number suffered breakdowns because of the stress of continual operations into the face of deadly fire.

He said: "I don't think anybody had ever spoken about having mental breakdowns before and being taken off frontline ops, other than in less than glorious terms. Until then PTSD had not been spoken about at all.

"Military personnel with PTSD in World War II were treated abominably.

"It became a massive problem because it wasn't talked about. At least in the first Gulf War it was known about, although there was a lot of scepticism about it."

Nichol (*inset below*) has dedicated the book to "all the courageous, dedicated and skilled men and women involved in the liberation of Kuwait 1990-1991. Especially those who made the ultimate sacrifice."

He said: "The book is a tribute to the families, the Tornado Force and to the aircraft itself. Not only did it do an incredible job in the Gulf War and adapted from Day 1, after the war it went on to serve with amazing distinction for the next three decades until its retirement in 2019. The Tornado certainly has a special place in my heart."

He added: "It was a huge responsibility for me to tell this story, people trusted me with some of the most private moments of their lives, it was really important for me to get it right."

Win signed copy of book



WE HAVE copies of *Tornado In the Eye of the Storm* by John Nichol (Simon & Schuster), signed by the author, to win. For your chance to own one, send us the correct answer to this question:

In which year was the Tornado retired from RAF service?

Email your answer, marked Tornado book competition, to: competitions@rafnews.co.uk or post it to: RAF News, Room 68, Lancaster Building, HQ Air Command, High Wycombe, HP14 4UE, to arrive by July 18.



REUNION: Nav Flt Lt Robbie Stewart (*right*) and pilot Flt Lt Dave Waddington with their families. The pair were shot down and taken prisoner during a strike on an airfield during the Gulf War. Robbie's daughter Kirsty (*far right above*) went on to be a RAF fighter pilot and the first woman to fly with the Red Arrows. The pair are pictured below before flying in the same Tornado formation



TRAGEDY: Steve Hicks looking at pilot Rupert Clark. The RAF Navigator died on February 14, 1991, when the pair were shot down in the Gulf. Clark was taken POW but later released



DESERT COLOURS: Gulf War Tornados



OPS: Mal Craghill, left, and his pilot Mike Warren. They dropped the RAF's last bombs of Gulf War I



TABUK WING: Armed GR1s on Op Granby, in Saudi Arabia



NAVIGATOR: Author Nichol in RAF days

R'n'R

150
ROYAL ALBERT HALL



Win!



Win: Sci-fi comedy box set ● p4

Prom queen – Katie Derham ● p4-5

- Announcements**
- P6-7
- Puzzles**
- P8



RAF News

The Forces Favourite Read

Hit your target market with RAF News - the official newspaper of the Royal Air Force since 1961.

Reaching an audience of more than 50,000 readers every fortnight, RAF News is the Forces' favourite newspaper delivering exclusive news, features and sports action from across UK Defence

To discuss your advertising in
RAF News please call or email:

T: +44 (0)7482 571535

E: edwin.rodriques@rafnews.co.uk

RAF News

The official voice of the Royal Air Force



TV
Countdown
Channel 4

You can Count on Anne

ANNE ROBINSON has taken up the *Countdown* reins, replacing Nick Hewer as the first female host of Channel 4's longest-running series.

She joins numbers whizz Rachel Riley and wordsmith Susie Dent, where together they will be the TV programme's formidable female trio, every weekday at 2.10pm.

On her new all-female team, Robinson, who is *Countdown*'s sixth host, said: "Three girls do *Countdown* – who wouldn't want to watch?"

Reflecting on filming with journalist and broadcaster Robinson, Rachel Riley said: "It's been really fun watching Anne very quickly find her feet in the *Countdown* studio and seeing the contestants in the new groove with her.

"She's not shy of asking them funny questions and the responses have ranged from going into their own comedy routines to not looking directly at her and hoping she doesn't see them – it's been very lively."

Susie Dent added: "I'm so pleased to be able to work with Anne again. She has been a heroine of mine ever since she gently rescued me from an embarrassing moment on my first bit of live TV. With her flair and wit, she's going to be a wonderful addition to the *Countdown* team."

Countdown was the first programme to broadcast on Channel 4, when the channel launched 39 years ago, in November 1982, making it one of the longest running quiz shows in the world.



NEW HOST: Anne Robinson, centre, with numbers whizz Rachel Riley, left, and Dictionary Corner's Susie Dent

Family time with Jamie

CHANNEL 4 has also announced that Jamie Oliver will be back this autumn with a new series *Jamie Oliver: Together* where the TV chef will be creating menus designed to be enjoyed with friends, family and loved ones after so long apart.

The series will celebrate meals that bring people together and make special memories with a collection of menus from nibbles and starters to sharing plates and desserts.

Each episode walks the viewer through cooking a full meal from beginning to end, providing a simple guide to stress-free entertaining.

The recipes featured on the show are from Jamie's new book *Together*, which launches in September.

Alongside cooking for his loved ones in the series, Jamie will be opening his home to some of the frontline heroes of the pandemic, from NHS staff to delivery drivers, food growers and vital service providers.



OLIVER: Family friendly



Music
Ministry of Sound Classical

O2 Arena, London

O2
date

Bringing the dance back to London

LEGENDARY DJ Paul Oakenfold (left) will join Ministry of Sound Classical for a huge show at London's O2 Arena on November 13 to mark the dance brand's 30th anniversary.

Tickets for the show, part of The O2's full capacity Welcome Back Show series, are on sale now.

Oakenfold played the opening night of the South London club in 1991 and has been a mainstay at Ministry of Sound ever since.

He said: "I've been a part of Ministry of Sound from the day it opened, when I was

the resident DJ every Friday. I also mixed one of their early compilations called *The Sessions*.

"It's one of the greatest nightclubs in the world. It's one of my favourite places to play and I will always have fond memories of Ministry of Sound. I'm really looking forward to being part of their 30th birthday party at The O2. I've played for Ministry of Sound at The O2 before and it's always a wonderful experience."

The Ministry of Sound Classical show will feature three decades of dance music with the 50-piece London Concert Orchestra. The concert is the evolution of the Ministry's classical arm, which launched in 2018, reimagining some of the biggest dance tracks from the 90s including the likes of The Chemical Brothers, Fatboy Slim and Dario G. It sold out two shows at London's Royal Festival Hall and its debut UK tour in 2019.

Ministry of Sound opened its doors at its Elephant & Castle site in 1991 and made history as the first house music nightclub in the UK.

Ministry of Sound chairman Lohan Presencer said: "Ministry of Sound have always been pioneers in London and dance music throughout our three decades. The phenomenal success of the newly launched Ministry of Sound Classical is continued proof of that. We're delighted to be bringing the dance back to the capital following the pandemic."

The O2 Welcome Back Shows kick off in August and will feature a diverse line-up of headline artists and performers showcasing the best of British and international acts. The first event to be announced was Mo Gilligan + Friends and 'The Black British Takeover' which takes place on December 8. Burna Boy will headline on August 27. More acts will be announced soon.

Go to: theo2.co.uk for more information. See axs.com, Eventim, SeeTickets and Ticketmaster for details of how to buy tickets for Ministry of Sound Classical on November 13.



Golden days for Jimmie

FOLLOWING HIS critically-acclaimed project *Bettie James*, the chart-topping, platinum-selling recording artist Jimmie Allen has just released his new album *Bettie James Gold Edition*.

The 16-track album doubles down on Allen's expansive love for music across genres, with nine new collaborations in addition to the seven previously featured on *Bettie James*.

Featured artists on *Bettie James Gold Edition* include Babyface, Breland, Keith Urban, LANCO, Lathan Warlick, Lindsay Ell and Pitbull.

Allen said: "When it comes to music I love, I don't really get wrapped up in boundaries or genres. I thought we were gonna stop with the collaborations with *Bettie James*, and then I was like 'man, there's so much music out there that I love, so many artists that I love', and I just wasn't done."

"There's some pop, there's some rock, there's some country, there's some R&B. I got a chance to work with legends. When I was writing some of the songs, I was trying to picture each moment."



"I went to each artist to work with them so they could be who they are on the song and bring their greatness to the song – I feel like that's what makes the songs better. I'm super proud of the body of work of this album and can't wait for people to hear it."

Bettie James Gold Edition is a continued homage to Allen's late father, James Allen, and late grandmother, Bettie Snead. It follows the success of *Bettie James*, a seven-track project released in July 2020 which featured a wide array of artists from across genres and generations including Brad Paisley, Charley Pride, Darius Rucker, Mickey Guyton, Nelly, Noah Cyrus, The Oak Ridge Boys, Rita Wilson, Tauren Wells and Tim McGraw.

Jimmie Allen made history as the first black artist to debut with two consecutive Number 1 hits: *Best Shot*, which spent three weeks at Number 1 on country radio, and *Make Me Want To*.

He will publish his first picture book, *My Voice Is A Trumpet*, on July 13.

Go to: jimmieallenmusic.com for more details.

Concerts
The Summer Proms
The National Memorial Arboretum



A tree-t in store

FIREWORKS FINALE: National Arboretum Proms

THE SUMMER Proms at the National Memorial Arboretum are back - the popular evenings will return to the Staffordshire site on August 7 and 8. Across the two evenings an audience of up to 3,000 will hear a selection of proms favourites performed by the Band of the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers and soprano Emily Haig, concluding with a fireworks finale.

experience. "In 2019, when we last hosted the proms, the event sold out and this year we've already had a fantastic response since tickets went on sale, with people eager to secure their place for a magnificent evening of summer entertainment." Ticket holders will be admitted to the event area from 6pm ahead of the start of performances at 8pm, with the event scheduled to end at 10.30pm. "To ensure we can deliver a first-class experience for all attendees we are selling a limited number of tickets for each evening," said Ellis.

"Even if there is an easing of Covid restrictions for events, we want to make sure that everyone can have their own space with a great view of the performers on stage." Tickets can be bought from the Arboretum's website: thenma.org.uk where reduced price advance tickets are available until 30 July. In addition to standard admissions, a limited number of premier tickets will also be available. These include a three-course evening meal and welcome drink, reserved seating and a complimentary programme.

1st Competition DVD
Future Man (Fabulous Films/Fremantle Media Enterprises)



Future-proofing planet Earth

SCIENCE FICTION adventure series Future Man, described as an 'absurd comedy' and 'television's cleverest sci-fi adventure series', stars Josh Hutcherson (Hunger Games), Eliza Coupe (Happy Endings, Flight of the Conchords) and Derek Wilson (Preacher) and its executive producers are Seth Rogen and Evan Goldberg (Superbad, Pineapple Express, This is the End).

women can only be matched by his unparalleled prowess at The Biotic Wars, a dystopian video game where his character, Future Man, has the top ranking in the world. When Josh becomes the first and only person to beat the elusive final level, he's visited by the game's 'fictional' characters, Tiger (Eliza Coupe) and Wolf (Derek Wilson), who prove to be all-too-real warriors sent back in time from a desecrated future with the task of recruiting him to save humanity from invasion from a super-race (accidentally created by a herpes vaccination). Inspired by many science fiction movies over the past 30 odd years, the series references numerous films including The Last Starfighter, Back to the Future and Terminator as well

as non-science fiction such as Top Gun, Easy Rider and Silence of the Lambs. The series is dedicated to the memory of Glenne Headly (Dirty Rotten Scoundrels, Dick Tracey), who played Diane Futterman. Headly passed away midway through the first season. The Complete Series box set (rrp £39.99) includes every episode from all three seasons - and we have two box sets to win. For your chance to own one, simply send us the correctly answer to this question: Who are the executive producers of Future Man? Email your answer, marked Future Man Box Set competition, to: competitions@rafnews.co.uk or post it to: RAF News, Room 68, Lancaster Building, HQ Air Command, High Wycombe, HP14 4UE, to arrive by July 16.



Music
Texas/Gillespie-Beth
On the Road tour



Spiteri's on a Hi

TEXAS ARE back on the map with the recent release of their new album Hi. Back in 2018 the band's frontwoman Sharleen Spiteri and bass guitarist Johnny McElhone found some outtakes from the original White on Blonde sessions that they had forgotten existed. Initially they thought these undiscovered gems could be released as a 'lost' album but listening to the tracks inspired them to write some new material. "Our excitement at finding this treasure trove of songs collided with our excitement back then and, unplanned, new songs started coming," Sharleen said. "You could say we were inspired by ourselves."

Collaborations include Dark Fire, written with Richard Hawley, and Look What You've Done, a duet with Clare Grogan (Altered Images). "All our albums have cinematic songs," Sharleen (pictured) added. "Ennio Morricone in particular is still a huge influence. We're referencing our past but also writing from the position we're in now. Being able to stand back from what you've achieved gives you a different perspective. Our aim has only ever been to make great music." Texas tour the UK and Ireland in February and March 2022. Go to: texas.uk.com for more details.



The Big Event The Proms
80 yrs of Albert Hall Proms



THIS YEAR marks 150 years since London's Royal Albert Hall first opened and it's 80 years since it became home to the BBC Proms. The Proms, dubbed 'the world's greatest classical music festival', runs from July 30 to September 11 and features 52 concerts over 44 days, with 30 orchestras and ensembles and more than 2,000 musicians - and there will be extensive coverage by the BBC. A spokesman for the channel said: "This ambitious season promises a celebration of live music on a scale not seen since before the pandemic." Every concert is broadcast live on BBC Radio 3 and available on the BBC Sounds app and 20 Proms will be broadcast on BBC television and available on BBC iPlayer, including the First Night and Last Night of the Proms. Katie Derham (pictured far right) will host coverage live on BBC 4.



NICOLA BENEDETTI



SIR SIMON RATTLE



SHEKU KANNEH-MASON



NUBYA GARCIA



The spokesman added: "We celebrate British ensembles and international talent, world premieres and debut performances, undiscovered work and audience favourites in a summer of exceptional music-making for audiences live in the Hall and at home." Henry Wood, founder-conductor of the Proms, said in 1927 when the BBC first broadcast the event: "With the whole-hearted support of the wonderful medium of broadcasting, I feel that I am at least on the threshold of realising my lifelong ambition of truly democratising the message of music, and making its beneficial effect universal." The BBC Orchestras and Choirs will be joined by ensembles from around the UK as well as exciting emerging stars, including: Nicola Benedetti (August 7), Steven Isserlis (August 12), Sir Simon

Rattle (August 22) and Sheku Kanneh-Mason (September 5). The spokesman said: "Whilst showcasing UK artists, the Proms remains an international festival and is proud to present some of the world's great soloists and conductors alongside rising stars from across the globe." "We are also pleased to welcome the Mahler Chamber Orchestra, the only international orchestra this year, which will bring the world premiere of a BBC commission by George Benjamin, postponed from 2020." To mark 50 years since the death

of Igor Stravinsky, the Proms pays homage to the Russian composer's life and work. The Aurora Orchestra is much admired for its performances from memory at the Proms, and this summer tackles its most ambitious challenge yet: performing Stravinsky's 1945 suite from The Firebird from memory - whilst Sir Simon Rattle leads the London Symphony Orchestra in an all-Stravinsky programme. Other highlights include a celebration of The Golden Age of Broadway with the BBC Concert Orchestra and Richard Balcombe performing favourites from hit

musicals, alongside special guest soloists (July 31); rising star Jonathon Heyward will conduct the National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain in Beethoven's Eroica Symphony, joined by star soloist Nicola Benedetti for Prokofiev's Violin Concerto No. 2 (August 7); an evening of music from across the African continent with cellist Abel Selacoe and his trio Chesaba performing a fusion of African and European Baroque music with the BBC National Orchestra of Wales (August 15), and award-winning virtuoso saxophonist and composer Nubya Garcia will make

her Proms debut for a night of jazz (August 18). And former Children's Laureate Michael Morpurgo will join the seven talented Kanneh-Mason siblings and starry music friends for Saint-Saëns's The Carnival of the Animals, which gets a fresh update in new poems by Morpurgo and a new companion piece by Daniel Kidane (August 29). The BBC has produced a 2021 Proms Festival Guide to help you plan your summer of music and discover more about the featured music and performers. It includes a celebration of the history of the Royal Albert Hall by historian Lucy Worsley, details of the concerts (subject to change as a result of Covid-19 regulations), an at-a-glance calendar and information on how to book tickets. The Guide is available from Amazon, Waterstones, WH Smith and the Royal Albert Hall. You can also order a braille version of the Festival Guide - call the RNIB Helpline on: 0303 123 9999 for more information.

Bringing the pain back to modern rock music

PRIMAL SCREAM frontman Bobby Gillespie has teamed up with solo artist and Savages vocalist Jehnny Beth to release the album Utopian Ashes, out now. "In the same way you create characters for a novel, we've created characters here," she said. "But you put yourself in it, because you're trying to understand the human situation. The singing has to be authentic. That's all that matters." "When you write a song, you marry the personal with the fictional and make art," added Gillespie. "I was thinking about two people living alone, together but apart, existing and suffering in a psychic malaise, who plough on because of responsibilities and commitments. It's about the impermanence of everything - an existential fact that everyone has to face at some point in their lives." Gillespie and Jehnny Beth first

met in 2015, when they were both invited to perform with Suicide at the Barbican. The following summer she joined Primal Scream on stage for a duet of Nancy Sinatra and Lee Hazelwood's Some Velvet Morning, which cemented their connection. In 2017, they convened in Paris for sessions, accompanied by Beth's musical partner Johnny Hostile and the rest of Primal Scream. Gillespie added: "I wanted to put pain back into music. I wasn't hearing a lot of it in modern rock music." Utopian Ashes is available on stream, download, LP, Red LP (HMV Exclusive), Clear LP (Indies Exclusive), Blue LP (D2C Exclusive) and CD.



KINDRED SPIRITS: Beth and Gillespie

Film
Sunset Screenings
Beckenham Place Park

Britain's best films al fresco

A NEW outdoor film festival featuring 10 of the top British movies is taking place in south east London throughout the summer. The Sunset Screening Sessions are held every Friday night at Beckenham Place Park until September 10. The programme includes comedy, horror, thriller, drama, Black, LGBT movies and more, spanning from the present day back to the beginning of the 20th century. A spokesperson said: "Diversity is the central pillar to our selection. Our 10 films paint a colourful and culturally vibrant picture of Britain." Highlights include a live music score for Alfred Hitchcock's The Lodger: A Story of the London Fog (his first commercial hit, made in 1927), a Q&A with the director Julien Temple (Crock of Gold: A Few Rounds with Shane MacGowan) and a



23 WALKS: Alison Steadman and Dave Johns star in the middle-aged romance tale

dog-friendly screening (23 Walks). Musician Rick Simpson, a regular at Ronnie Scott's, the 606 Jazz Club and The Vortex, will improvise a music score live on the piano for The Lodger. Based on the eponymous novel, the film was inspired by the Jack the Ripper murders and stars Ivor Novello, one of the most popular entertainers of the first half of the 20th century. All but one of the films (I Am

Not A Witch) are set either entirely or partly in London, some of them not far from Beckenham Place Park itself. Also showing at the festival are the black comedy classic Withnail and I, the hit spy comedy Austin Powers - International Man of Mystery and the Ealing comedy classic Passport to Pimlico. Go to: sunsetscreeningsessions.co.uk for more information.

Comedy
Jongleurs
On the Road tour



Show is back on the road

DATES FOR the rescheduled Jongleurs 'On The Road' comedy shows have been announced following the postponement of a relaunch earlier this year. Acts confirmed include John Moloney, Hal Cruttenden, Tom Houghton, Nick Page, Rudi Lickwood, Mike Gunn, Susan Murray, Kane Brown, Jarred Christmas, John Ryan, Joe Rowntree, Marcus Birdman, The Raymond and Mr Timpkins Revue, Geoff Boyz, Ignacio Lopez, Cerys Nelmes, Kev Orkin, Paul Tonkinson, Javier Jarquin, Ria Lina and Phil Walker. The tour, which runs until November 28, visits venues including The Concorde Club, Southampton; Beccles Theatre; The Stirrup Cup, Kettering; SAS

Hereford and the Queen's Theatre Barnstaple. The Jongleurs brand was acquired by actor, musician and stand-up comedian Kev Orkin (pictured) last year. He said: "We book the brightest and best comics and create diverse comedy shows featuring the UK's finest, in the comfort and convenience of your favourite local venue. And although each experience will be different at a Jongleurs night out due to the vast talent we have performing, our shows are designed in one format so you always know what you're getting - a great night out." Jongleurs has introduced a new platform - One to Watch - which will feature upcoming comedy talent. Go to: www.jongleurs.com to find out more and book tickets.





Your Announcements

You can email photos for announcements on this page to: tracey.allen@rafnews.co.uk

Deaths

HODDER Robert Francis, Flt Sgt (Ret'd) Ex Supplier sadly passed away on Monday, May 10 aged 75. Loving husband of Pat, wonderful Dad to Sharon and Gail and father-in-law to Darren and Kevin. Much loved Grandad to Lewis, Erin and Jodie. A great man loved and respected by all.



Flt Sgt Robert Hodder

PARRIS David Cpl (Ret'd) – after an accident in Corfu last September where he broke his leg, Dave had a nine-month struggle to recover, but unfortunately he developed an overwhelming infection in his leg which resulted in an amputation. The trauma led to more heart problems and he sadly passed away on May 31. He loved his time in the RAF and was very proud to serve his country. He was a wonderful husband, father and grandfather and he will be sorely missed and remembered always.

Seeking

A member of the RAF Association, Beccles and Southwold Area Branch is appealing to the families and anyone who knew 1579140 LAC Wilfred Holbrook from Long Eaton, Derby and 1777072 LAC Norman Parker, RAF Regiment, of the

Blakelaw area of Newcastle upon Tyne to make contact. Both were killed in action on June 11, 1946 at Medan Airfield, Sumatra by Sukarno terrorists.

The purpose of the appeal is to convey to any surviving family members the knowledge that, following the death of their relatives, a full military funeral was arranged for these brave airmen, attended by our member and all conducted with full military honours and great respect. In full accord with the Data Protection Act 2018, any information can be forwarded in confidence to President Brian Vousden, RAFA Beccles and Southwold Area, email: lancaster457@btinternet.com.

SEEKING to regain contact with former Jnr Tech David Jennings and his wife Margaret, my next-door neighbours in Limassol in the late 1960s for the three months I was stationed in Cyprus. Margaret cared for my two children, aged three and four months, when my wife had to be admitted to hospital in Akrotiri. We were repatriated to the UK three months later, my wife was transferred to the RAF Hospital at Wroughton and I returned home to Kent, with my children, for a posting to RAF Biggin Hill. I left the RAF on compassionate grounds in August, 1969. My wife passed away from leukaemia the following month.

In the rush to prepare for the return to England, I was never able to express my sincere thanks to Margaret and David for the immense load taken off my shoulders or to actually say goodbye before my departure.

After 45 years of marriage that was to follow, I have now lost my second wife and I constantly think of David and Margaret and the fact that I did not, properly, say goodbye. I feel a deep debt

of gratitude towards them. Please email David Line on: davshe2006@yahoo.co.uk if you can help me make contact with them.

Reunions

THE British Nuclear Test Veterans' Association is holding their Annual Conference Reunion at the Telford Hotel & Golf Resort near Ironbridge on August 9-12, 2021, Covid-permitting. The reunion includes a day trip to the Cold War Hangar at the RAF Museum, Cosford, for veterans to share stories of the nuclear tests, meet two RAF cloud flyers and visit the Vickers Valiant XD818 which dropped Short Granite at Operation Grapple, Christmas Island in 1957. The conference will feature an array of speakers including authors of books on the nuclear tests, scientific researchers and talks about veterans' welfare. A gala dinner and entertainment will bring the event to a close. Please call: 0208 144 3080 or email: info@bntva.com for further information.

DID you serve at RAF Changi or HQFEAF Singapore? The RAF Changi Association (inc. HQFEAF) founded May 1996 welcomes new members from all ranks, ex RAF/WRAF/WAAF and civilian personnel who served at RAF Changi (inc. HQFEAF) during 1946-72. For more information please contact our Membership Secretary: Malcolm Flack on: 01494 728562 or email: MemSecChangi@outlook.com or visit: www.rafchangi.com for more details.

SINGAPORE Armed Forces Reunion. Were you seconded from the RAF to the SAF at RAF Tengah between 1971-75? If so please contact Peter Priscott

for a 50th anniversary reunion in August. Email: peterpriscott@aol.com or call: 01842 878554.

RAF Bawdsey Reunion Association. Having cancelled our 2020 reunion, we were planning the next reunion for June 5 2021, but the continuing Covid-19 restrictions make it impossible to hold a successful reunion for our members, so the June 5 event was cancelled. A consensus showed that members were not in favour of a reunion in September 2021 therefore we have provisionally planned the next reunion for Saturday May 21, 2022, before The Queen's Jubilee celebrations and the extended public holidays in early June, and we look forward to seeing our friends again then. In the meantime we wish you all a safe and healthy time as the roadmap out of lockdown progresses. If you have any queries please email: doreen.bawdseyreunion@btinternet.com or call: 07513 301723.

SEEKING Teresa and Helen Barltrop, daughters of RAF Armourer Tony Barltrop and his wife Margaret. He and I served together at RAF Tengah, Singapore during the early 1960s and were very good friends. I was a single airman living in barracks and spent many weekends at your married quarter on the Sembawang Hills Estate. I have a number of colour and black and white photos of your parents and yourselves and would be happy to pass them on over the internet or copy and send by snail mail. Please contact Alan Mudge at: bombhead40@aol.com or call: 01760 337514.

SMSpouses Live

BFBS has announced that tickets are now available for SMSpouses Live – a networking event for military spouses and partners looking to further their knowledge and skills in social media. The event takes place on July 20 at the Great Yorkshire Showground in Harrogate and will feature a masterclass from former BBC journalist turned social media specialist Sue Llewellyn and business owner, ex-journalist and Fiji community champion, Suliana Tuiteci. Tickets are £5, with all proceeds* (*after Eventbrite fees have been deducted) going to the BFBS Big Salute that raises funds for Armed Forces charities. Go to: eventbrite.co.uk for ticket details.

Seeking Cyprus mate Mac



READER ALAN Boniface is hoping to regain contact with his former RAF colleague Cpl Mac McCulloch.

Alan, who now lives in New Zealand, said: "I served in Cyprus 1956-57. My RAF number is 2777576. I would love to contact Cpl McCulloch who lived in the same tent with me.

"This photo shows myself, *on the right*, and Mac on duty in the Troodos mountains looking out for Greek Terrorists in about 1957. We were both posted to the Middle East HQ at Episkopi of the Army, Navy and RAF.

"Mac was the cook at the base, and my job was dealing with inward and outward mail. If he is still alive I would love to make contact."

Please email Alan at: aljoyab@gmail.com if you can help.

Defence helpline gives anti-bullying support

DEFENCE PERSONNEL experiencing or witnessing bullying, harassment or discrimination can access a confidential helpline for support.

Military personnel can raise and discuss issues anonymously through the Defence Bullying, Harassment and Discrimination (BHD) Helpline.

Callers can speak to an independent helpline adviser who understands Defence. The helpline operates outside the chain of command and is staffed 24/7 by trained bullying, harassment and discrimination advisers and qualified counsellors. The advisers can provide emotional support, information and guidance.

The helpline is also there for those cited in a BHD case who need support too.

The number is: 0800 783 0334 and is free to call.

Rare pilot's watch for sale



FOR SALE: Rare 1953 RAF vintage pilot's watch by Omega – model 2777-1 SC – 6B 542. This watch (*above*) has been fully serviced with dial restoration by Omega (Switzerland) and comes with Omega Nato strap. The watch is one of only 5,900 made for military purpose, produced only for pilots

and officers. The condition as certified by Omega after service and dial restoration is classed as very good, and it carries a Service card warranty until November 15, 2021. Offers in the region of £3,000 will be considered. Please email: tjmccrory@yahoo.co.uk for further information.

How to use our service

There is no charge for conventionally-worded **birth, engagement, marriage, anniversary, death, in memoriam seeking** and **reunion** notices. For commercial small ads contact Edwin Rodrigues on: 07482 571535. We cannot, under any circumstances, take announcements over the telephone. They can be sent by email to: tracey.allen@rafnews.co.uk. Please note that due to the coronavirus pandemic we are currently unable to accept notices submitted by post.

Important Notice

The publishers of *RAF News* cannot accept responsibility for the quality, safe delivery or operation of any products advertised or mentioned in this publication.

Reasonable precautions are taken before advertisements are accepted but such acceptance does not imply any form of approval or recommendation. Advertisements (or other inserted material) are accepted subject to the approval of the publishers and their current terms and conditions. The publishers will accept an advertisement or other inserted material only on the condition that the advertiser warrants that such advertisement does not in any way contravene the provisions of the Trade Descriptions Act. All copy is subject to the approval of the publishers, who reserve the right to refuse, amend, withdraw or otherwise deal with advertisements submitted to them at their absolute discretion and without explanation.

All advertisements must comply with the British Code of Advertising Practice. Mail order advertisers are required to state in advertisements their true surname or full company name, together with an address from which the business is managed.



Your Announcements

You can email photos for announcements on this page to: tracey.allen@rafnews.co.uk

Going the extra miles

STAFF AT the Defence Medical Rehabilitation Centre at Stanford Hall in Loughborough were joined by Army and Navy patients donning RAF Association shirts to take part in the charity's big annual fundraiser, RAFA Rides.

As well as a 100-mile mass bike ride in Leicestershire, personnel and civilians around the world took part in a virtual event in a collective bid to cover almost 25,000 miles – the equivalent of once around the world – to raise money for the charity.

The DMRC's contribution was organised by Flight Sergeant Cheryl Slater and held in the Royal British Legion Complex Trauma Gym. Staff from the Neuro Department and Neuro Ward took part, along with personnel receiving treatment at the DMRC's Nottinghamshire site.

Officer Commanding Medical Division, neuro consultant Wg Cdr Shreshth Dharm-Datta and the DMRC's second-in-command, Wg Cdr Ian



PEDAL POWER: Wg Cdr Ian Swain and Wg Cdr Shreshth Dharm-Datta get on their bikes

Swain, both sat on hand bikes and added a few respectable miles to the combined total of 760 from Stanford Hall.

FS Slater said: "I am pleased and proud of the fantastic achievement by all the patients and staff who have taken part.

"The patients had a fantastic time and were

completely immersed in the event.

"They can be extremely proud of their efforts in contributing a significant number of miles to the RAFA total."

So far RAFA Rides has raised more than £100,000.

● **Go to: rafa.org.uk for more information.**



Memorial for NAAFI

CHIEF OF Defence People Lt Gen James Swift broke ground for the new Navy, Army and Air Force Institutes (NAAFI) memorial at the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire recently.

The memorial commemorates more than 550 NAAFI personnel who died during World War II and recognises the ongoing contribution of NAAFI uniformed branches on land, both at home and overseas, and with the Royal Navy onboard HM naval ships.

Forming part of the NAAFI's centenary celebrations, the memorial was instigated by the Naval Canteen Service (NCS)/ Expeditionary Force Institutes (EFI) Association (NEA).

The Association worked with stonemason Graeme Mitcheson to create a design carved from sandstone featuring a glazed full colour

NAAFI crest which will be installed at the Arboretum ahead of a planned dedication ceremony in October.

Steve Marshall, NAAFI's CEO, said: "NAAFI is central to Her Majesty's Armed Forces welfare, both through the service we provide and the essential contribution of the NAAFI Fund."

Lt Gen (Ret'd) Richard Nugee, Chair of NAAFI, said: "The ground breaking for a memorial to those NAAFI employees who lost their lives in their service is a vivid example of how NAAFI, through the dedication of its employees, supports the Armed Forces, whenever and wherever they're needed."

NEW TRIBUTE: Above, from left: Tony Hales (NEA), Lt Gen James Swift (Chief of Defence People) and Lt Gen (Ret'd) Richard Nugee (Chair of NAAFI)



RAF News

The Forces Favourite Read

Hit your target market with RAF News - the official newspaper of the Royal Air Force since 1961.

Reaching an audience of more than 50,000 readers every fortnight, RAF News is the Forces' favourite newspaper delivering exclusive news, features and sports action from across UK Defence

To discuss your advertising in RAF News please call or email:
T: +44 (0)7482 571535
E: edwin.rodrigues@rafnews.co.uk



www.defence.gov.uk



By Appointment to Her Majesty The Queen Medallists
Worcestershire Medal Service Ltd
Bromsgrove



Specialists in Orders, Decorations and Medals



Suppliers of replacement and miniature medals.
Medal mounting in Court and Ordinary Style
Medals framed for display.

For all your medal related needs including the supply of ribbons, storage cases and other related items.
Bespoke Medal Manufacture

Worcestershire Medal Service Ltd

56 Broad Street, Sidemoor, Bromsgrove, B61 8LL

www.worcmedals.com

Tel: 01527 835375 email: sales@worcmedals.com

R'n'R



Prize Crossword

No. 295

Solve the crossword, then rearrange the seven letters in yellow squares to find an RAF word

Across

1. Creature of the night is docked on crest (5)
4. Hardy heroine has left after work for this kind of bathing... (7)
8. ...while West Side Story heroine has the French fever (7)
9. Fury found in Bavarian Germany (5)
10. Made up cheese (4)
11. Sealed atmosphere is restricted (8)
13. See 15 Down
14. One Parliamentarian's devils (4)
16. Fighting Italy, I'm right upset (8)
17. I leave Diane at odds with faculty head (4)
20. The Greatest points to foreigner (5)
21. British weather hits eastern country (7)
22. Daughter gushed and lived (7)
23. Remove creases from newspapers (5)

Down

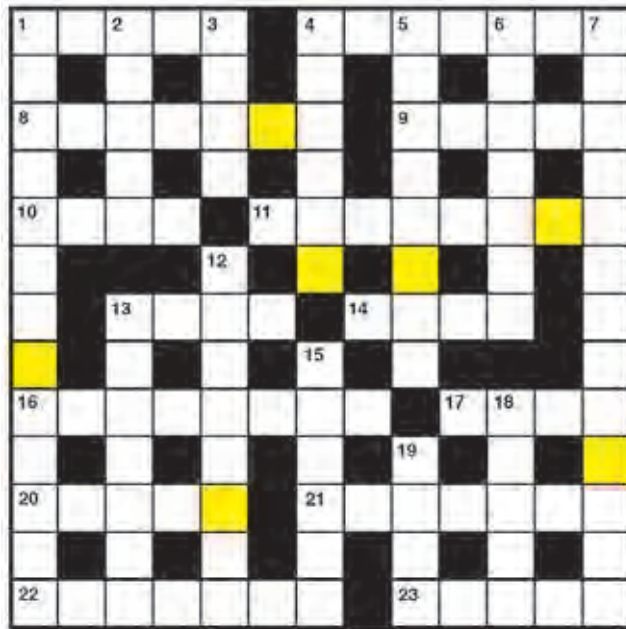
1. Mob commend bar used by RAF controllers (6,7)
2. Led back volunteers for Greek letter (5)
3. First Emma annoyed rather large nobleman (4)
4. After first taste, tipped cigar was awful (6)
5. Ghostly planes? (8)
6. Employs English fruits (7)
7. Tartan stokers designed US planes (13)
12. Dispatched in the Spanish plane (8)
13. Company has two beginners inside gliders disagree (7)
15. And 13 Across. RAF personnel urged Crown to scatter (6,4)
18. Head of Empire illuminated eastern high society (5)
19. In favour of soft part of plane (4)

Name

Address

RAF word Crossword No. 295

The winners of Prize Crossword 295 and Prize Su Doku 305 will be published in the next edition. Send entries to the address printed in the adjacent Su Doku panel.

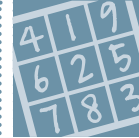


■ The winner of Crossword No. 294 is Adrian Hocking of Penzance.

Solution to Crossword No. 294:

Across – 7. Merlin 8. Victor 10. Regalia 11. Lilac 12. Code 13. Skiff 17. Tiara 18. Lazy 22. Chord 23. English 24. Odiham 25. Figaro
Down – 1. America 2. Brigade 3. Filly 4. Airlift 5. Stale 6. Price 9. Valkyries 14. Wildcat 15. Halifax 16. Typhoon 19. Scoop 20. Topic 21. Again

RAF word – Fighter

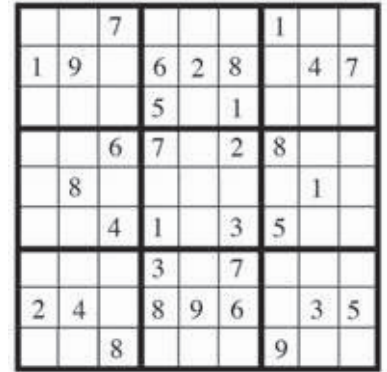


Prize Su Doku

No. 305

Fill in all the squares in the grid so that each row, each column and each 3x3 square contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

Solutions should be sent in a sealed envelope marked 'Su Doku' with the number in the top left-hand corner to RAF News, Room 68, Lancaster Building, HQ Air Command, High Wycombe, Bucks, HP14 4UE, to arrive by July 16, 2021.



Name

Address

..... Su Doku No. 305

Solution to Su Doku No: 304



■ The winner of Su Doku No. 304 is Steve Wood of Southampton.

L'amour of Wainwright

MARTHA WAINWRIGHT (sister of Rufus and daughter of Loudon Wainwright III and Kate McGarrigle), has announced that her upcoming new album *Love Will Be Reborn* will be out on August 20.

She has released *Falaise de Malaise*, her first original song featuring a mix of French and English lyrics, from the forthcoming LP.

Martha (*below*) said: "*Falaise de Malaise* is a first for me. Not only is it in 'Franglais' [a mix of English and French] but I'm actually playing the piano."

Love Will Be Reborn was made during the global pandemic and recorded in Martha's

hometown of Montreal, in the basement of her new café, Ursa, which also served as a studio.

She will embark on a UK tour this autumn which includes a show at London's Union Chapel on September 20 and will also visit venues in Frome, Sheffield, Bridport, Cardiff, Cambridge, Birmingham, Bexhill and Liverpool.

■ Go to: marthawainwright.com for details.



Arts

Guildford Fringe Festival

Until July 25

Bex is out to slay 'em

GUILDFORD FRINGE Festival is now on until July 25 with a packed line-up of cultural delights after last year's event had to be cancelled due to Covid-related restrictions.

Set up by Nick Wyschna in 2013, the festival features theatre, comedy, poetry, music, visual arts, family-friendly shows, talks and free events.

Venues this year include Clandon Wood Nature Reserve, the Yvonne Arnaud Theatre, The Back Room of the Star Inn, The Keep Pub, The Guildhall and the historic town centre of Guildford.

Gag House Comedy Superstars kicked off the Festival at the Yvonne Arnaud Theatre on July 2, delivering some of the UK's best stand-up comedy, with headliner Rich Hall. The weeks to follow offer the chance for audiences to catch familiar faces, local talent, new writing and perennial classics, said the event's organisers.

Nick Wyschna, the festival's managing director, added: "It feels great to be talking about Guildford Fringe Festival once again after having to cancel it in 2020.

"It's been a tough year but let's focus on the positives. We were fortunate enough to be awarded a Cultural Recovery Grant from Arts Council England, which gives us a

MOUSSAKA MAYHEM: Comic Bex Turner



blanket of security when it comes to planning.

"Throughout July, audiences can be immersed in theatrical energy whatever events they choose to come and see."

The programme includes Helen Emalie in *On Top of the World - A Tribute to Karen Carpenter*, comedy with Bex Turner in *Bex's Chainsaw Moussaka* and Annette Gregory in her new show *Jazz and Me*, returning to the festival after her sold-out show in 2019.

There's also a new adaptation of

Sherlock Holmes's *The Hound of the Baskervilles* from British Touring Shakespeare (the 2pm show is already sold out and a 5.30pm show has been added), a Singalong Pub Quiz, acoustic guitarist Rob Johnston in concert and screenings of Alfred Hitchcock's classic film *Rebecca* and Powell and Pressburger's *A Matter of Life and Death*.

And there's an open-air production of Shakespeare's classic comedy *Twelfth Night* staged in the meadows at Clandon Wood.

Highlights of this year's Free



JAZZ AND ME: Singer Annette Gregory

Fringe include an al fresco performance of *Opera on the Balcony* outside the Guildhall, Guildford's Rock Choir, Surrey Fringe Chorus and Colour with Guildford in Bloom.

■ Go to: guildfordfringefestival.com for booking details, call: 01483 361101 or you can buy tickets in person at The Star Inn, Quarry Street, Guildford each day from 6pm before that evening's event starts. You can buy tickets for other events between 6-7pm in person.

Live events



WE ARE EXCELLENT. WE ARE QE.

The Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI) has found Queen Ethelburga's Collegiate to be 'Excellent' across all schools, praising our pupils' outstanding academic achievements and personal development.

Queen Ethelburga's has a long-standing relationship with the British Forces, welcoming students from military families for over 100 years. We currently have over 300 such students living as part of the QE family.

We welcome day students from 3 months to 19 years and boarders from 6 years to 19 years. We are CEA accredited and in recognition of our commitment to Forces families, we offer a significant reduction in fees. In 2019/20 this meant that our Forces families paid just 10% of fees. In 2020/21 Forces families will pay just £955 per term, per child (with the benefits of Childcare Vouchers this figure can be as low as £614 per term).

We pride ourselves on our wrap-around specialist pastoral care for our students, providing a secure and supportive home from home. We are focused on creating the right learning and living environment so that every one of them can thrive.

For further information or to arrange a visit contact our admissions team on
01423 33 33 33 Email: admissions@qe.org

Thorpe Underwood Hall, Ouseburn, York, YO26 9SS | www.qe.org

By Simon Williams

Feature

NATO MATTERS

That's the message from ACM Sir Stuart Peach as he stands down as the alliance's top military officer

WITH BRITAIN'S Carrier Strike Group projecting Nato military might on its first deployment and RAF jets safeguarding the skies in Eastern Europe, UK defence is at the forefront of Alliance operations to counter resurgent Russia and China.

As he prepares to stand down from his post as Nato's most senior military officer, Air Chief Marshal Sir Stuart Peach says the Royal Air Force remains at the centre of the mission to combat emerging threats from rapidly modernising adversaries, in the air and in space.

Sir Stuart joined the Service in 1974 at the height of the Cold War and made his operational debut flying reconnaissance missions from Italy in Canberras.

Nearly 50 years later the Cold War chill has returned as Russia and China raise the stakes across the globe.

Russia

Sir Stuart said: "After the Cold War we went through a phase of reaching out to Russia. Since then, as our pilots and navigators and ground crews know only too well, Russia has never stopped probing our defences.

"It has continued to modernise its forces and is very active in Syria – where it is using its air force every day – and with its military operations in the Caucasus.

"In the High North we have seen a remarkable resurgence of activity in the air and under the sea as Russia's military modernisation takes shape.

"The Georgian breakaway regions are still occupied by substantial modernised forces and Russia has recently employed more peacekeepers to the Nagorno-Karabakh region, which is part of disputed territory between Azerbaijan and Armenia.

China

"That same modernisation is taking place in China. You just have to look at the number of aircraft in and around Taiwanese airspace and the number of scrambles by the Japanese Defence Force.

"China is challenging the whole international system and we need to be aware of it. It is an important function of the RAF to use its intelligence, surveillance

and reconnaissance capabilities to understand Chinese capability and what they are doing with it.

"We are going to encounter China more and more. That is a fact, and not just in the South China Sea with the Carrier Strike group."

Five decades

Few can match ACM Peach's international defence portfolio. During a career spanning five decades he served tours on Tornado GR1 in the UK and Germany, qualifying as a nuclear weapons and electronic warfare instructor.

He commanded IX (Bomber) Sqn at RAF Brüggen acting as Brüggen Strike Wing Leader for Nato's nuclear and conventional response missions.

He served tours in Belize, Hong Kong and Germany in the 1980s, was Deputy Commander British Forces in Turkey during Operation Warden, UK Head of Military Coordination in Iraq and Detachment Commander in Saudi Arabia during Operation Jural.

He commanded British Forces in Italy, Nato forces in Kosovo and served as the Deputy Senior British Military Adviser in US HQ Central Command in 2001.

As Chief of Joint Operations he commanded UK Forces on Nato operations in Afghanistan, Iraq and Libya, before being appointed Chief of the Defence Staff. He took up his fourth four-star appointment as Chairman of Nato's Military Committee in 2018, the first RAF officer to do so.

Baltic

He said: "I am very proud to be the first Royal Air Force officer to hold this post. Our forces are deployed forward in the Baltic states and the RAF plays a vital role in Baltic Air Policing and Icelandic policing, at the moment in Romania. I am pleased with the commitment and support of the RAF in those operations."

The former Tornado campaigner is a huge evangelist for the benefits of a Nato posting. "Serving in Nato is something I will push.

"You will return to the Royal Air Force having had a really interesting tour and met many friends. It broadens the minds of those serving in the RAF

"Russia has never stopped probing our defences"



TRAILBLAZER: Sir Stuart was the first RAF officer to be Nato's military chief



SIGNING OFF: Sir Stuart (2nd from left) signed off 50 years in the RAF with a flight on a Nato E-3A AWACS

PHOTO: MELANIE BECKER

and gets them to think and act more broadly."

But he warns that the global perspective is not enough as Nato adversaries expand their military operations into space, with weaponised satellites, and into the cyber realm.

He added: "The big message as I leave is about Nato's role accelerating investment in new technology, which fits entirely with the Integrated Review and space capability.

"As a technology alliance Nato has the biggest group of people with PhDs in the entire world. We can accelerate things with member states and there is a leading role for the UK and the RAF within that."

Nato has set up a Space Command in Ramstein in Germany and is developing new space-based capabilities and a Cyber Centre in Mons in Belgium, offering a range of opportunities

for Air Force personnel.

ACM Peach signed off from his RAF career recently with a flight on an E-3D AWACS. He reflected: "I would like to thank the RAF for looking after me for all these years. I started my flying career in 1974 and I flew on an AWACS mission last week, which was an excellent way to bring almost 50 years to a close.

"We are a vital ally to the Nato alliance and the RAF plays an important role. I have worked with Nato for nearly all my career and the RAF's reputation is high.

"We remain a very valued and trusted ally. The RAF is recognised as one of the world's leading Air Forces and that trust has to be sustained through outward facing activity, which we are doing.

"I was Tornado Navigator and Squadron Commander for a chunk of my life. I flew that aircraft for 20 years and most of those missions were in support of Nato. Nato matters."

SERVICE: ACM Sir Stuart Peach



HM Government

NHS

Test and Trace

COVID-19

Welcoming customers again? Check them all in.

The NHS COVID-19 app is the quickest and simplest way for your customers to check in securely.

Let's take this next step safely.

[GOV.UK/workingsafely](https://www.gov.uk/workingsafely)



Watch this Space



SWORD WINNER:
Off Cdt F L Hinde



AIR VICE-MARSHAL Paul Godfrey, Commander UK Space Command, was the Reviewing Officer at the graduation of The Queen's Squadron consisting of 97 Officers of Modular Initial Officer Training Course No 4 and Specialist Officer Initial Training Course No 5 and Reserve Officer Initial Training Course No 66, from RAF College Cranwell.

He said: "It is an honour to represent the Chief of The Air Staff here. These officers have shown excellent character in completing the course despite the challenges of a global pandemic, demonstrating all the elements of leadership that we look to grow as they progress through their careers in the Royal Air Force.

"As Commander UK Space Command it is truly exciting to be working within the Space Domain and I hope in the near future to see some of those graduating today in the command, working alongside the Royal Navy, Army, Civil Service and industry."

GRADUATING OFFICERS OF MODULAR INITIAL OFFICER TRAINING COURSE NO 4

PILOT

- Fg Off R E Capewell-Salisbury MSci
- Fg Off R E Cattell LLB
- Fg Off B A Crossley BEng (Hons)
- Fg Off A J J Currie BA (Hons)
- Fg Off T P Fletcher MSci (Hons) ARCS
- Fg Off C L Grant BA (Hons)
- Fg Off K R Martin BEng (Hons)
- Fg Off J A McKernan BA
- Fg Off L A Osborne BA (Hons)
- Fg Off L E Taylor BSc MSc

REMOTELY PILOTED AIR SYSTEMS (PILOT)

- Fg Off L G Blaber
- Fg Off N Cotter
- Fg Off J McKenna



REVIEWING OFFICER: UK Space Command chief AVM Paul Godfrey with cadets

WEAPONS SYSTEMS OFFICER

- Fg Off J Gray

AIR OPERATIONS (CONTROL)

- Fg Off T C A Barnett
- Fg Off J G Cadwallader BSc
- Fg Off M S Epstein
- Fg Off L Hodgkinson Fc Mgr MCMi
- Fg Off M Watson
- Plt Off J M Carr
- Plt Off F J Davidson MMath
- Plt Off D V Edge
- Plt Off J W Greig
- Plt Off R C Holmes BA (Hons) MA
- Plt Off K A Johnston
- Plt Off R P Kee
- Plt Off J K Lythgoe
- Plt Off B A Moir BSc
- Plt Off E C F Palmer BSc (Hons)
- Plt Off S A Pickering
- Plt Off E P C Pountney BA (Hons) AMInstLM
- Plt Off J Preddy
- Plt Off A G Ralston BSc (Hons) MLitt
- Plt Off H L Taylor BSc
- Plt Off A W Tickel BSc

AIR OPERATIONS (SYSTEMS)

- Fg Off O F Barrow
- Fg Off N Nicholson
- Fg Off B A Sutton BSc (Hons)
- Plt Off M C Jenkins
- Plt Off K E Postins

INTELLIGENCE

- Fg Off T D Jackman

- Fg Off E Salisbury LLB (Hons)
- Plt Off W Crawley BA (Hons)
- Plt Off F L Hinde BA (Hons)
- Plt Off G W Robertson BA
- Plt Off J M Travers
- Plt Off J J Walford BA (Hons) PG Dip
- Plt Off R P Waters

REGIMENT

- Fg Off K D Colgan
- Fg Off T J Noyes
- Plt Off L W M W James-Crook
- Plt Off C F W Marlow
- Plt Off H J D Richardson BSc
- Plt Off C R Smith

PROVOST

- Fg Off D C Anderson
- Fg Off J Morgan
- Fg Off P G Rickwood
- Plt Off S A Bonar BSc (Hons)
- Plt Off B Dalton

ENGINEER (AEROSYSTEMS)

- Fg Off P A R Runtng BEng

ENGINEER (COMMUNICATIONS – ELECTRONICS)

- Fg Off T A Ahluwalia BEng (Hons)
- Fg Off K Carlos
- Fg Off M F Charles-Sweeting FdSc BA (Hons)
- Fg Off R S Chawlia
- Fg Off S T Collingwood
- Fg Off E Hood MEng
- Fg Off S Howard EngTech

ICTTech TMIET

- Fg Off G S Mather
- Fg Off J E Popplestone

LOGISTICS

- Fg Off R Bull
- Plt Off F L Kennard-Kettle BSc

PERSONNEL SUPPORT

- Fg Off E M Hutchinson
- Plt Off A E Fisher
- Plt Off L McGarvey BA
- Plt Off B Rawlings

PERSONNEL TRAINING

- Fg Off C M Booth BA
- Plt Off E M Knight BA (Hons)
- Plt Off J White

MEDICAL

- Fg Off G R Dixon
- Plt Off L Price
- Plt Off A A Stonebridge

GRADUATING OFFICERS OF SPECIALIST OFFICER INITIAL TRAINING COURSE NO 5

MEDICAL

- Sqn Ldr P Valand BMBS MRCS MSc DMCC
- Flt Lt D C Cain MBChB

DENTAL

- Flt Lt C R A Conroy BDS
- Flt Lt C M Little MChem BDS

MEDICAL SUPPORT (PHYSIOTHERAPIST)

- Flt Lt C D Dorey BSc MCSP

PRINCESS MARY'S ROYAL AIR FORCE NURSING SERVICE

- Flt Lt J Barrett BSc PgCert RN(A)
- Flt Lt S C Ferguson BSc PgDip RN(MH)
- Fg Off S P McGuinness BSc

LEGAL

- Flt Lt L R Steer BA PgDip Law Barrister-at-Law

PILOT

- Fg Off C W Smith

GRADUATING OFFICERS OF RESERVE OFFICER INITIAL TRAINING COURSE NO 66

ROYAL AUXILIARY AIR FORCE

PILOT

- Fg Off R Phillips BSc

REGIMENT

- Fg Off J T Brierley BSc MCSP
- Fg Off B S Geddes BSc

MEDICAL

- Sqn Ldr S S Ahmad MBChB FRCS(Ed) FRCEM MBA

MEDICAL SUPPORT

- Fg Off A J Thompson BA MInstLM

ROYAL AIR FORCE RESERVES

PILOT

- Wg Cdr A P Hobson CeMAP cfs*

PRIZEWINNERS OF INITIAL OFFICER TRAINING COURSE No 4

THE SWORD OF HONOUR, for the top cadet – **Off Cdt F L Hinde BA (Hons)**

THE HENNESSY TROPHY AND PHILIP SASSOON MEMORIAL PRIZE, for the second-best cadet – **Off Cdt T D Jackman**

THE MacROBERT PRIZE, awarded by his or her peers – **Off Cdt R S Chawlia**

THE BAE SYSTEMS TROPHY, for the highest marks for professional studies on the Course – **Off Cdt J E Popplestone**

THE GROUP CAPTAIN WILLIAMS' MEMORIAL TROPHY, for greatest improvement – **Off Cdt B Dalton**

THE WARRANT OFFICER BILL TORRANCE TROPHY, for best Physical Education work – **Off Cdt S A Bonar**

THE RAF CLUB PRIZE, for grit and unwavering perseverance – **Off Cdt B A Moir BSc**

PRIZEWINNERS SPECIALIST OFFICER INITIAL TRAINING COURSE No 5

THE DAEDALUS TROPHY, for the best all-round cadet – **Off Cdt C R A Conroy BDS**

THE SPECIALIST OFFICER INITIAL TRAINING COURSE CADETS' CADET – **Off Cdt J Barrett BSc PgCert RN(A)**

SPECIALIST OFF INITIAL TRAINING COURSE PHYSICAL EDUCATION AWARD – **Off Cdt S P McGuinness BSc**

PRIZEWINNERS RESERVE OFFICERS INITIAL TRAINING COURSE No 66

THE MACROBERT SWORD OF MERIT, for best cadet – **Off Cdt J T Brierley BSc MCSP**

FlightPRO is Oceans apart



AI-ENHANCED:
Cloud based web apps allow data to be shared across Ops area reducing risk and boosting interoperability

FOR OVER 25 years, Ocean Software has been producing class-leading time, task & resource management software optimised for military air operations.

Its principal product, FlightPRO, is now the cornerstone air planning tool for 13 militaries globally, providing a scalable and configurable system for the precise management of operations and training processes.

Data Driven

FlightPRO delivers a single source of data truth from which any number of reports can be generated to understand and analyse performance data such as utilisation rates, capability and readiness. Currency and qualification recording, together with automatic conflict resolution, significantly reduce the burden of scheduling and flight authorisation, while enhancing safety.

Meanwhile, FlightPRO's training management application set allows the planning and tracking of course syllabi and training assets, including simulators and classrooms, which can also be integrated with Learning Management Systems and student reporting.

Other FlightPRO features include MS Outlook notifications, an electronic logbook, a long range planner and an airspace deconfliction



- Air Traffic Control
- Airfield status
- Deconfliction
- Bird control
- Emergency Services
- Transient movements
- Maintenance reports
- Logistical Ops
- In-flight catering
- Ordnance control
- Customs/immigration
- Airspace coordination
- RAF Regt & security
- Contractor services

tool. The list is not exhaustive.

Yet, whilst an increasing number of flying squadrons benefit from a superior level of situational awareness and data management, the same cannot be said of the myriad units and organisations that support flying operations across an air base, with many still using stand-alone tools and processes such as whiteboards, spreadsheets and emails.

Fully integrated

Indeed, the lack of IT systems' integration across air bases overall is inefficient by modern commercial standards, reducing interoperability over a range of crucial base functional areas and exposing personnel to unnecessary operational risk.

To address the apparent disparity, Ocean Software is now deeply invested in evolving the core facets of FlightPRO into a

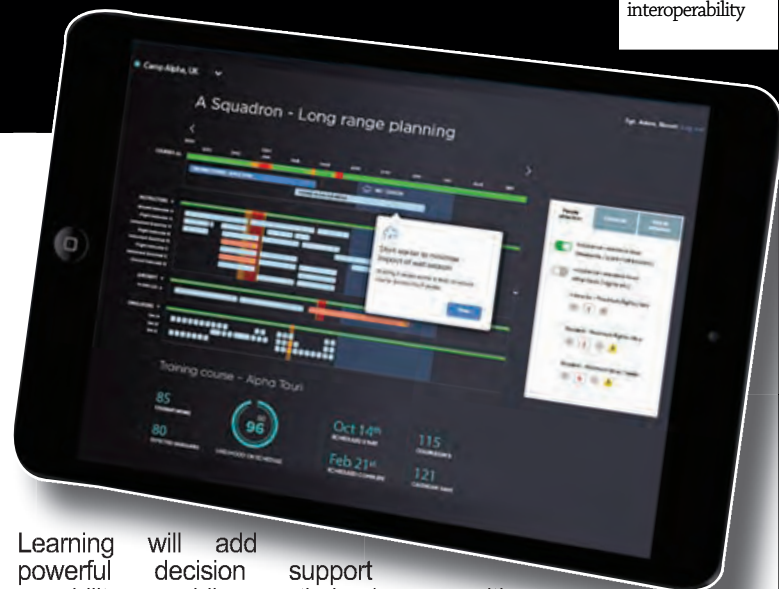
far broader capability to address the burgeoning need for an Integrated Base Management Solution (IBMS).

Machine learning

An IBMS could be best described as a single repository for data sharing and system integration that reduces duplication of effort and communication errors and improves interoperability across all air base functional areas. In short, Ocean is developing the concept of a 'smart' airfield and is calling it SmartBase.

Recognising information as its lifeblood, SmartBase will deliver an unprecedented level of coordination, situational awareness and governance through a real-time, collaborative Common Operating Picture for commanders and operators alike.

The addition of Artificial Intelligence and Machine



Learning will add powerful decision support capability, enabling optimised scheduling recommendations delivered through an intuitive visual user interface.

With affordability in mind, SmartBase is being developed as a modular and totally scalable tool. Functional areas of an airbase can be added over time to suit the scale of operational need and budget.

For some air bases, the IBMS may need to comprise only the sharing of fundamental data: planning, resourcing, asset availability, scheduling, reporting and readiness.

Train as you fight

The inclusion of automated conflict detection and alerts, automated notifications where required, and custom-built drill-down dashboard reporting on targeted KPIs for commanders, constitute an effective and affordable IBMS entry

proposition.

As a cloud-based web application that integrates and shares all required inputs, system data can be relayed on monitors around all common operating areas. And, in-keeping with the philosophy of 'train as you fight', SmartBase will be operable and supportable from deployed locations.

SmartBase will help to modernise air bases, embrace networks and data, and create a world-class, integrated, capable and inclusive Air Force. It will continue the legacy of FlightPRO's future-proofed technology platform delivered in a COTS environment to ensure supportability and sustainability. SmartBase will place data at the heart of an air base ecosystem, while protecting against cyber threat, enhancing compliance with appropriate standards of governance and improving efficiency.

Modest Hurricane pilot Freddie was awarded the DFC

FLIGHT LIEUTENANT Freddie Nicoll, who has died aged 100, flew Hurricanes during the desert war in North Africa and from bases in Italy against targets in the Adriatic and Yugoslavia.

He enlisted in the RAF in November 1940 and six months later sailed for South Africa before travelling to Salisbury in Southern Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) where he spent the next eight months completing his training as a pilot.

He was commissioned and left for Egypt and on to Syria to train on Hurricanes in the tactical reconnaissance role. In September 1942 he joined 208 Squadron at Burgh-el-Arab, 40 miles behind the frontline in the Western Desert.

The Eighth Army was established at El Alamein and the squadron flew reconnaissance sorties to identify enemy positions and ground movements.

Nicoll flew his first sortie on October 3, when he acted as the 'weaver' (escort) to a colleague who concentrated on taking photographs and making visual observations. Over the next few days Nicoll flew further sorties when large concentrations of enemy vehicles and tanks were noted. On the 12th, on a sortie to the edge of the Qattara Depression, he reported more than 600 motor transports dispersed and heavy movements of road traffic in the region. On later sorties he photographed the enemy's forward defence positions.

When the Battle of Alamein commenced, Nicoll's flight had been withdrawn to the Canal Zone, with the squadron's other two flights seeing most of the action

At the beginning of 1943 the squadron moved to Kirkuk in Iraq for intensive training and to provide support for the Army's 21 Corps and the Polish Brigade Group. After six months it moved to Rayak in Syria and in October Nicoll was posted to 6 Squadron in late 1943.

No 6 was equipped with a later model of the Hurricane modified to carry rockets in place of two of its cannons. The squadron had gained fame during the desert campaign as a tank-busting squadron but its new role was to be anti-shipping operations. Early in 1944 it moved to southern Italy.

“A few ships got in the way of my rockets... in appreciation I was issued with a piece of blue and white ribbon”

Nicoll flew his first operation with 6 Squadron on April 5, 1944, when he attacked targets in Corfu harbour. Over the next few weeks he attacked armed schooners, barges and ferries carrying supplies to coastal areas.

On May 3 his leader's aircraft was hit by flak during an attack on a schooner. He was eventually forced to bale out and Nicoll, who had escorted him, searched the sea area for him, but in vain. Desperately short of fuel, Nicoll made a forced landing on the rudimentary forward airstrip on the island of Vis off the Croatian coast. Refuelling from jerry cans, he returned to his squadron the following day.

Targets in Albania and along the Dalmation coast were attacked with rockets but the primary objective was to destroy the enemy's resupply vessels. Nicoll attacked patrol boats and on May 23 his rockets blew a hole in the side of a 5,000-ton cargo ship, which caught fire.

By the end of May Nicoll was flying many of his sorties from Vis, which allowed the Hurricanes and their Spitfire escorts to cover most of the Adriatic. Many vessels were hit so the enemy shipping started to sail at night. Nicoll led attacks against them flying at very low level and firing his rockets in level flight.

In August, the squadron's commanding officer was shot down resulting in Nicoll's promotion to flight commander. He led many sorties from Vis and others from Brindisi. By early October he had completed 55 operations, many against fierce anti-aircraft fire, and had witnessed the loss of several pilots flying in his formations. He was awarded the DFC for his "courage and devotion to duty".

In later years he modestly commented: "Whilst with 6 Squadron, a number of small ships, and a few bigger ones, got in the way of my rockets, which happened to be

carrying 60lb high explosive heads. In appreciation of this I was issued with a piece of blue and white ribbon!"

On his return to England Nicoll flew Spitfires and the Vengeance towing target drogues for fighter squadrons to practise air-to-firing. He was finally demobilised in May 1946.

He made several visits to the island of Vis, where the locals treated him as a hero. His last visit was in May 2011 when he joined other veterans and he laid a wreath on the RAF memorial.

Nicoll was a devoted member of the 6 and 208 Squadron Associations and rarely missed an annual reunion, travelling to attend from Carlisle to London until a few years ago. On his 100th birthday he was given an honour guard by personnel from RAF Spadeadam and members of the current 6 Squadron as a Spitfire and a Mustang flew over his home.



NICOLL: Many sorties in Middle East and Adriatic



RAF News

The Forces Favourite Read

Hit your target market with RAF News - the official newspaper of the Royal Air Force since 1961.

Reaching an audience of more than 50,000 readers every fortnight, RAF News is the Forces' favourite newspaper delivering exclusive news, features and sports action from across UK Defence

To discuss your advertising in
RAF News please call or email:

T: +44 (0)7482 571535

E: edwin.rodriques@rafnews.co.uk

RAF News

The official voice of the Royal Air Force

AVM Don Attlee, LVO, CB

Obituary

RAF intelligence officer helped gather info on crashed Soviet fighter

AIR VICE-MARSHAL Don Attlee, who has died aged 98, commanded The Queen's Flight and in 1961, during a proving flight to West Africa, had the dubious honour of being the first Royal aircraft and crew to be arrested.

The nephew of former Prime Minister Clement Attlee, Donald Attlee joined the RAF in 1942 and trained as a pilot in Canada. After gaining his wings, he remained as a flying instructor before returning to appointments in Flying Training Command.

He converted to jet aircraft in 1952 and joined 12 Squadron, one of the first bomber squadrons to be equipped with the Canberra.

After a staff tour, he returned to the Canberra in June 1957, this time as a flight commander in Germany on 59 Squadron equipped with the more advanced interdicator version of the Canberra, the B(1)8.

In May 1958, Princess Margaret was due to visit British Honduras (now Belize). Due to the unpredictable politics of the colony's neighbours, it was decided to send two fully armed Canberras to Belize City airport to be on standby during the visit. Attlee led the pair as they headed for Belize via the Azores, Newfoundland and Bermuda before arriving on May 2. He then escorted the royal aircraft on the final stages of its flight and remained available throughout the visit, which passed off successfully.

After a staff tour in the Air Ministry, Attlee took command of The Queen's Flight. The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh were due to visit Ghana and Sierra Leone in November 1961. In July Attlee and his crew took one of the Flight's Heron aircraft to check the route and suitability of the various en route staging posts.

After being very well entertained by the French Commandant of the Beau Geste-type Algerian oasis of El Golea, Attlee set off the next morning for the former French airfield of Gao in the recently independent Mali. Refuelling at Gao had not been part of the originally agreed plan, but 36 hours earlier the French authorities had changed the arrangements and substituted this destination. When Attlee made radio contact with Gao he was asked if he had authority to land. Assuming the French had made the necessary arrangements following the switch, Attlee landed. He later recalled: "I was certain that we had a small problem when we taxied in. I had never before been marshalled to a parking place by a number of natives inexpertly waving Tommy guns and rifles."

When asked by the military commander for the written permission to land, Attlee did not have such a copy and it was soon apparent that his arrival had not been anticipated. The crew were arrested and taken to the Splendide Hotel, which, once inside, Attlee described as "anything but splendide". After much negotiation in broken French, and contact with the British Consul in Bamako, the crew were given clearance to leave the following morning and continue the proving flight.



AVM DON ATTLEE:
Former Queen's Flight
Commander and
nephew of PM Clement

The subsequent visit by the Royal party was very successful and Attlee had no further troubles.

At the end of the visit to West Africa, Prince Philip left to attend the independence celebrations in Tanganyika. With Attlee acting as captain of the Heron, Prince Philip flew the aircraft on the long flight across Africa, making numerous landings en route without incident. At the end of the visit he flew the aircraft back to Britain. Attlee described the Prince as "an excellent pilot".

Attlee remained with The Queen's Flight until July 1964 when he was appointed LVO.

On promotion to Group Captain in February 1964 he became the senior RAF intelligence officer at HQ RAF Germany, based at Rheindahlen.

On April 6, 1966, Attlee was in Berlin on one of his regular visits to confer with the staff of the British Intelligence Mission. During the morning an advanced Soviet Air Force Yak-28 (NATO codename Firebar) fighter crashed into the Stobensee Lake in the British sector of West Berlin, killing the two crew members. In a brilliant operation over the next few days, the engines and the top-secret 'Skipspin' air intercept radar were salvaged and Attlee arranged for them to be flown immediately to Farnborough for evaluation. In the meantime, the Soviets agitated for access to the wreck, but were kept at bay. Within 36 hours the engine was flown back to Berlin and reunited with the wreckage in the lake, which was finally lifted and eventually returned to the Soviets. The top-secret radar was retained; the British claiming that it had proved impossible to recover.

In October 1968, Attlee took command of Brize Norton, the home of the RAF's strategic transport fleet. He kept in regular flying practice and on one occasion captained a VC 10 on a round-the-world flight.

After working in the policy staff at MoD, Attlee became the Director of Recruiting (RAF), during which time he was appointed an ADC to The Queen. He later served as the RAF's senior intelligence officer in the MoD.

In September 1975 he became the Air Officer Administration at HQ Training Command, which had responsibility for all officer and airmen training including numerous flying training bases.

Early in 1977, Attlee was detailed to make the preparations for The Queen's Silver Jubilee Review of the RAF to be held at Finningley, near Doncaster. The spectacular event brought Attlee many accolades, including messages from the Royal Family. The next day, he retired after 35 years service in the RAF. In the following New Year's Honours List, he was appointed CB.

He retired to be a fruit farmer at Culmstock in Devon, where he remained until his final retirement in his 80s. He was appointed a Deputy Lieutenant of Devon.

COVID-19

Having friends round to watch the game? Open a window.



Fresh air blows the virus particles away.

Let's take this next step safely.

HANDS **FACE** **SPACE**
FRESH AIR



INTERIOR: Headroom is limited but legroom's decent



REAR: Sportback tail disguises the utility hatchback

508 GT is a hatchback that thinks it's a coupe



Vive la différence

WHEN I originally heard that Peugeot's new 508 GT was on the way I wasn't quite sure what to expect. On the one hand I was pretty excited because cars with 'GT' in the title tend to be pretty muscly with exhausts the size of the Channel Tunnel and, these days, enough computer processing power to launch a medium-sized mission to Mars. On the other hand, I started twitching slightly because historically anything French has had a tendency to go on strike. This didn't bode well for complicated electrics in my book.

Fortunately what arrived was pleasantly surprising, a striking Fast-tail hatchback with bags of charisma and proven technology. Even Peugeot's space-age twin screen 'iCockpit' dashboard had already demonstrated reliability in other models from the French car giant's range. Twitching over.

Exterior

The new 508 GT has been designed to make a statement. It's a strategy that's worked well for French brands in the past and, in a segment dominated by bland saloons, Peugeot hopes it will work once more. The exterior certainly strikes you as being something

TIM MORRIS

Motoring Correspondent



special and it stands out as obviously as Audi's more expensive A5 Sportback.

It's lower than many cars in this class and looks beefier as a result. It has wider arches than the old 508 and this creates a brilliant optical illusion. It's bigger and yet shorter... 8cm shorter to be precise. It's also lost 70kg.

Crisp, angular 19-inch alloys, sleek frameless doors and front lights with an oddly American feel also help to set it apart from the crowd. The front grille harks back to Peugeots of the past but with a modern twist. At the rear the sportback tail gives it the impression of being a classy coupe, cleverly camouflaging its hatchback utility.

Whichever angle you view it from it manages to make you look twice.

Interior

The interior is even more of a fashion statement. Art Deco patterns and contrast stitching adorn the plush leather seats while

Verdict

Pros

- Eye-catching looks
- Stylish interior
- Hatchback practicality
- Good fuel economy

Cons

- Soft ride for the image
- Restricted visibility
- Fidgety Auto

Overall

The Peugeot 508 is an unusual car in this segment and that means that it's not going to tick all the usual boxes for some. It makes a lot of sense as a company car, especially the low tax hybrid, and it's a great car to drive on long trips. On B roads it's a lot more fun to drive than a crossover and it holds its own well against the hordes of saloons that currently dominate the executive market. Its dynamics may be imperfect but it's different, and that's what we like.

chrome and carbon fibre trims the dashboard.

The infotainment system and digital instruments are very clever.

In GT spec you can swap between skins that emphasise speed/revs, navigation, or night vision. This gives you infrared imaging.

There's plenty of room up front, with masses of adjustment on the seats and the steering wheel. Peugeot's iCockpit 12.3in customisable digital instrument binnacle tends to upset people who like a more upright driving position because it's viewed above the small steering wheel rather than through it. With the wheel set high it can obscure the display. I didn't have any issues at all however because, in a sportback, I expect to sit on the floor with everything in its lowest, sportiest setting.

Headroom in the rear is limited slightly by the sleek roofline but there's a reasonable amount of legroom available. It's not overly generous but long journeys won't kill you either. Minicab rear space comes with something like a VW Arteon but if you prefer a sporty executive experience the 508 will do just fine.

On the road

The 508 comes with a choice of engines including a low tax hybrid option. Our car was the well-tested, top of the range 1.6 224bhp petrol and it felt pretty rapid.

0-62 mph is achieved in 7.1 seconds and it will reach a top end of 155mph.

Adaptive suspension is standard on the GT model and is linked to four driving modes: Eco, Sport, Comfort and Normal. Comfort places the car in the 508's natural environment and it wafts along effortlessly. Sport increases the steering weight and stiffens the dampers to give it a more GT feel but, realistically, the differences aren't massive.

Fortunately, its wide track means that body roll is minimal through the corners however and it sticks to the road like glue. The electric steering isn't quite as precise as rivals like the BMW 3 Series but it flows effortlessly from apex to apex on winding roads. The small steering wheel is a nice touch. It feels really sporty and allows you to point the nose through the turns with satisfying precision.

The steering assist and adaptive cruise control combine to give you a car that can practically drive itself on motorway commutes.

Wind noise and tyre roar are minimal, while the eight-speed auto shifts smoothly through the gears. The auto does however seem to shift a lot, changing up and down at odd times to find a ratio that it actually likes.



Sport

Email: sports@rafnews.co.uk



Four pages of **RAF Sport** start here

● The man shaking up RAF sport: p30-p31

ANGLING

THE FAMOUS FIVE

Hunt and Jones go land season opener

RAF Pairs
Baden Hall, Middle Pool, Staffs

AFTER A year of delays and disruption because of Covid-19, RAF anglers were delighted to be back in action, this time at Baden Hall Fishery, Staffordshire.

With the action expected to come thick and fast the traditional method of total weight landed over 48 hours was replaced with the total weight of the five biggest fish landed by each pair to determine the result of the match.

The first day on Middle Pool saw a change in weather from heatwave to grey clouds and a brisk breeze, despite this it wasn't long before fish started to slip over the chord of landing nets. An evening score update showed that 8 of the 11 pairs had already registered fish, with CT Matt Whittaker and CT Ian

RESULT
1st – FS Matt Hunt & Sgt Tony Jones, 5 Fish, 77lb
2nd – CT Matt Whittaker & CT Ian Coleman, 75lb 6oz
3rd – Paul Sampson & Emrys Sampson, 68lb 6oz

Coleman in peg 8 setting the early pace with 4 fish for 53lb.

As the light faded on the first night all pairs were confident of adding more fish to their total with a chance to move up the leader board. Following a quiet start FS Matt Hunt and Sgt Tony Jones in Peg 3 landed their first fish, closely followed by their second, third and fourth, a short feeding spell saw them land 7 fish in a couple of hours to put themselves in contention. On the opposite bank FS Reg Verney and Sgt Glenn Beardsall in Peg 4



FIVE ALIVE: Sgt Tony Jones and FS Matt Hunt

were next to take advantage of fish in the area, putting 8 on the bank in the early hours of the morning.

Going into the second day, a quiet night for early leaders Whittaker and Coleman saw them remaining on four fish for 53lb with Verney and Beardsall narrowly overtaking them with their five biggest fish weighing 55lb, however out in front with 3 of their best 5

fish over 16lb, Hunt and Jones in peg 3 were now the pair to catch, with a total of 77lb.

In contrast to the first day the second saw clear skies, beaming sunshine and no breeze. Working tirelessly in the heat Paul and Emrys Sampson in peg 7 began to catch regularly on the surface as they tried to wade through the smaller fish and land bigger specimens.

During the afternoon in peg 10 Flt Lt James Vaughan took the biggest fish of the match with an 18lb 6oz mirror.

Going in to the last night still out in front was Hunt and Jones on 77lb but the chasing pack was getting closer.

In peg 8 Whittaker and Coleman had increased their total to 70lb, closely followed by the Sampson brothers in Peg 7 on 68lb, Verney and Beardsall in peg 4 were on 64lb and FS Lee Wharleton and Cpl Liam Rawcliffe on peg 5 had put themselves in the mix with 60lb. With fish well in excess of 20lb swimming in the depth before them, everyone knew that landing one of the bigger residents would change the scoreboard dramatically.

In the last few hours of the match a 16lb mirror for Coleman moved the pair to within 2lb of the long-time leaders and fish were starting to be caught once again on the surface as Vaughan added 2 more carp to his previous biggest fish.

The hooter signalling the end of the match saw Hunt and Jones cling on to their narrow lead to take victory in the first match of the season.

MOTORSPORT

Historic Rally3 victory

BRITISH RALLY co-driver Phil Hall guided Jon Armstrong to an historic category victory at the opening round of the FIA European Rally Championship last weekend, debuting the M-Sport Ford Fiesta Rally3 in the series at Orlen, Poland.

The 32-year-old RAF motorsport star dovetailed his assault on the FIA Junior World Rally Championship with an outing in the ERC3 category at the gruelling high-speed gravel event.

Hall skilfully ensured driver Armstrong could push the limits of the new machinery across the rough and sandy stages to secure his second category win of the year, adding to his maiden Junior World Rally Championship win in Croatia in April.

The Motorsport UK Team UK squad member has enjoyed a dream start to 2021 after an enforced break from competition for much

of last year as Covid hit motorsport across the globe.

However, Hall (*below*) used that downtime to work hard towards a solid campaign this season and announced a new partnership with Northern Irish rallying returnee Armstrong.

A plan for a full assault on the Junior World Rally Championship followed and the newly-formed duo got their season off to the best possible start with a win at the opening round of the season.

Hall's experience of the series ensured their pace continued into round two, only to be cruelly denied another top result with engine failure on the second day in Portugal.

With a two-month gap between Junior WRC events, an opportunity arose to tackle the opening round of

the FIA European Rally Championship and Hall would head to Poland for his debut in the popular series.

After the opening super special stage on Friday night, the rally proper would start on Saturday with seven stages offering over 130km of competitive driving.

Hall would be competing in four-wheel-drive machinery for the first time since last year's Goodwood Speedweek with World Champion Stig Blomqvist, but the Fiesta Rally3 soon felt like home for the progressive co-driver.

Rally3 is a new category of 4-wheel-drive car that sits above the 2-wheel-drive Rally4 class that Hall and Armstrong currently campaign in the Junior World Rally Championship. Hall adapted to the new surroundings quickly with the proof coming in the stage times for the duo – leading the ERC3



WINNERS' PODIUM: Phil Hall and Jon Armstrong celebrate success in Poland

category after the opening day with four stage victories.

The gap to the nearest rival would be enough to ensure the final leg could be spent managing the lead in the category. Coping with the demanding conditions on the stages, Hall was able to guide Armstrong to the ERC3 victory and a place in the history books as the first-ever winners of the class in the European series.

"It's been a really tough rally in many ways so to come away from

my European Rally Championship debut with a category win is a fantastic result," said Hall.

"To give the Fiesta Rally3 its first win at this level makes that even more special and it proves that we can adapt quickly to new challenges and still be at the front fighting for wins.

"It's not very often you can say you have led both a World Rally Championship and European Rally Championship category in one year so that victory was pretty special."

Would you like to see your sport featured in RAF News? Send a short report (max 300 words) and a couple of photographs (attached jpegs) to: Sports@rafnews.co.uk

CRICKET

RLC take the honours in hard-fought battle

A WARM but cloudy day greeted the newly-selected RAFCA Development XI to Worthy Down for their first game of the season following two postponements of previous fixtures owing to poor weather.

RAFCA Development XI captain Flt Lt Berzins lost the toss, and the Dev XI were put to bat on what looked like a slow wicket with a large outfield. The skipper was accompanied by SAC Cunningham to open the batting with the Dev XI looking to post a competitive total, on a seemingly quick outfield.

They got off to a shaky start, losing wickets at the top of the

Royal Logistic Corps

RAFCA Development XI

order in quick succession, with the opening bowler from the Royal Logistic Corps claiming both opening scalps within his first two overs.

This then brought SAC Valentine and Fg Off Hansford to the crease looking to rebuild the innings, but Valentine was soon run out from a direct hit in the deep by a fantastic bit of fielding by the hosts. That brought Cpl Beales to the crease to enforce his power hitting, combined

with sharp running between the wickets.

Hansford and Beales started to enforce their dominance over the RLC. Some big hitting from both saw the Dev XI's total quickly climb above 100, with Hansford bringing up his 50 in timely fashion. Looking to push on in the final few overs, Beales was out for a well-made 37.

SAC Fuller was next into bat and played some inventive shots while Hansford finished on 90 to propel the RAF's final total to 165.

The RLC started their innings in positive manner, finding the boundary five times in the first

three overs, however SAC Partridge made the breakthrough in the fourth over with 37 runs on the board with a well-disguised slower ball, bowling the opening batsman.

The RLC continued in confident manner, finding the boundary regularly helped by loose deliveries from the visitors. A tight spell from SAC McMenemy was rewarded picking up the much-needed wicket of the number three batsmen, who looked extremely good for a boundary-packed 23.

The RLC continued their onslaught with the opening batsman and number four finding their feet

quickly through some neat running and finding the odd boundary. These two looked set to take their team home with just over a run a ball needed for the last six overs.

Valentine picked up the opening batsman's wicket for a well-made 50, however this was not quite enough with the RLC claiming the win with three balls to spare.

Follow the RAF Cricket Association on Twitter @RAFCricket and @RAFCAWomen. Instagram on @royalairforcercricket and @rafwomenscricket or email at RAFCricket@gmail.com.

Airmen in Hunt to the bitter end

Not so sweet 16 does for RAF

VINE LANE was blessed with another gloriously hot and sunny day as the RAFCA Men's Senior XI hosted Huntingdonshire CCC in a 50-over white ball affair.

The visitors won the toss and SAC(T) Tom Shorthouse's men were asked to bowl first on a dry used pitch.

Usual duo LCpl Jon Iniff and Cpl Sam Bloor opened the bowling for the airmen and quickly realised that the pitch was slow so required accurate stump to stump bowling. After a tight start, Iniff was forced to remove himself from the bowling after turning his ankle on the crease in the 7th over. This brought the previous week's top performer, SAC Sam Beales, on to bow.

After a steady start by the Hunts men, Bloor broke the opening partnership with a full nipping delivery which clipped the batsmen's off stump.

The breakthrough saw the introduction of spin as veteran Sgt Ash Watson and Flt Lt Avish Patel entered the attack. Immediately, there was dramatic spin from the surface at both ends, though it was the straight ball from Watson that opened up an end as he dismissed the number 3 LBW.

The entrance of number 4 Manzoor to the crease was a gamechanger as he took the attack to the spinners with a series of brutal shots over the infield, some into the

RAFCA Senior XI

Huntingdonshire CCC

gardens circling the ground.

Though Watson was able to control an end and bowl tightly without due reward, Manzoor pounced on any deliveries slightly off length from Patel.

After Watson's allotted 10 overs were completed, skipper Shorthouse entered the attack and had immediate success as he found a feathered edge of the opening batsmen through to wicket-keeper Cpl Adam Sutcliffe.

Shorthouse's success continued as he contributed a superb run-out, before taking another 3 wickets in his 7 overs.

The dangerous Manzoor was eventually snared by Flt Lt Tom Berzins from the bowling of the returning Beales on the boundary for an outstanding 78 from 52 balls. After his dismissal the innings floundered but Hunts managed to get up to a likely par score of 224-9 from their 50 overs.

Cpl Ross Diver and Sutcliffe opened the batting for the airmen as the temperature reached a scorching 28 degrees Celsius. They got off to a positive start against the Hunts bowling, racing to 29 from 5 overs before Diver was caught attempting a lofted flick over mid-wicket.

Shorthouse strode out to the



MASTER OF SPIN: Flt Lt Avish Patel

crease followed by the introduction of former first class Indian spinner Iresh Saxena into the attack to bowl some accurate left-arm twerkers. Saxena saw success in just his second over as he dismissed Sutcliffe on the sweep for 21, before Berzins overstretched in defence and was stumped for 3.

Patel and Shorthouse soon followed, leaving the airmen in a precarious position at 58-5. The entrance of Watson and Beales to the crease brought a period of stability as they accumulated runs and rebuilt the innings. When Beales was dismissed for 21, A/Sgt Andy McGeorge joined Watson, who continued scoring freely from the dual spin attack reaching his 50 from just 60 balls.

Hunts rotated their bowlers well which brought them the regular wickets they needed to stunt the RAF innings, this time Watson falling for a well compiled 58 from 69 balls.

The RAF lower order rallied and with batting down to



ALL SMILES: Celebrating taking a wicket

number 11 the airmen were in the game throughout. McGeorge, Chapman and Bloor added useful contributions towards the end putting the Service in a position to win the game, though regular wickets hampered its chances.

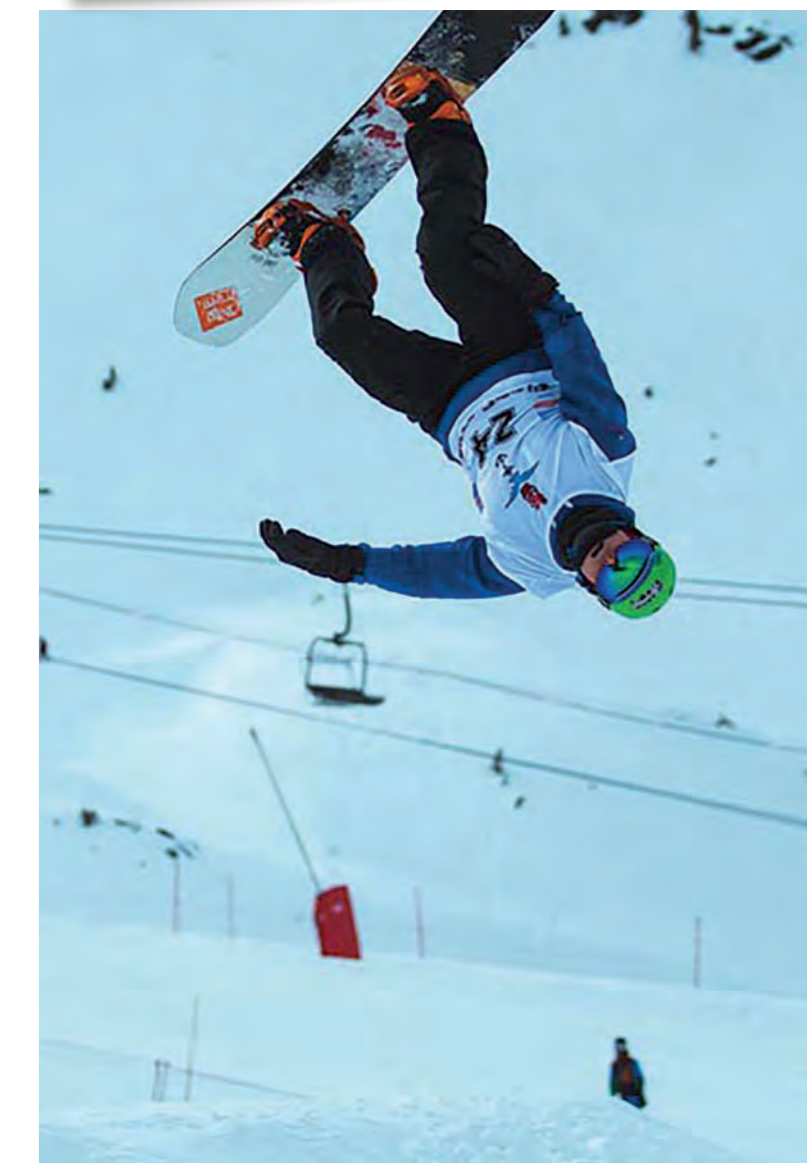
Needing 16 runs going into the

last 2 overs with just 1 wicket left, Bloor and SAC Aidan Cunningham were confident of success. This optimism was short-lived, however, as Bloor was adjudged LBW from a delivery striking him in the box. The airmen finished 16 runs short after a gripping game of cricket.

Would you like to see your sport featured in RAF News? Send a short report (max 300 words) and a couple of photographs (attached jpegs) to: Sports@rafnews.co.uk



GB HONOURS: RAF luge stars SAC Kelly Gwilliam and SAC Chelsea Medlock



HANG TOUGH: The Service has a good record in nurturing alpine sports talent

Three & E-as-y..

Team GB big-hitter on funding shake-up and E-Sports push for Royal Air Force

THE RAF has brought in Team GB sports expert Callum Whitton to reboot Service competitive hopes after more than 18 months on the sidelines.

The 30-year-old former UK Sport advisor has been appointed Deputy Director of Sport with a mission to make sure Forces athletes hit the ground running as restrictions end.

And integral to that strategy is a shake-up of the funding system to a three-year model and the continued promotion of E-Sport within the Service. Whitton said: "It has been a very difficult time for anybody involved in sport, both inside and outside the Armed Forces.

"We have all had to dig deep and look for ways to stay active physically and mentally.

"Eighteen months off has taken its toll. It is going to take a huge effort to get back to that top level, but everyone is in the same boat.

"There is injury risk obviously as fitness levels will have taken a knock but we will get back to that top level where we like to play and back to where we were before the pandemic.

"For those who are used to playing regular sport it has been hard to stay locked inside. We have had to be creative about how to stay in shape.

"As individuals it has had a huge impact and for those playing team sports that vital sense of togetherness has been lost.

"We want everyone in the RAF to know what opportunities are out there and that they can get involved"

"Now it feels we are coming back to normality – albeit with a slight delay, which has been annoying – but we have been able to get sport up and running with fixtures starting to resume."

Whitton comes to his new post after four years at UK Sport, where he worked with Britain's top athletic talent at the Rio Games and other top international tournaments.

He is bidding to bring that expertise to the Royal Air Force, boosting Service involvement in competitive sport, nurturing new talent and putting the Service's top teams on a more commercial footing.

His appointment also comes at a crucial time, with 13 of the Service's Elite Athletes bidding for places with Team GB at this Summer's Tokyo games and the Beijing Winter Olympics in 2022.

Beyond that RAF sports chiefs are also scouting new prospects for the Paris Olympics

in 2024 and Winter games in Milan in 2026.

The bid to reboot RAF sport after lockdown is a move to scrap annual spending assessments and introduce three-year funding packages and a drive to promote new disciplines like E-Sports.

Whitton added: "We are about to start the three-year investment strategy, rather than doing it on an annual basis.

"We are looking closely at what individual sports need and how we can get better value for money. That means assessing where people play sport, where memberships are strong and thinking how we can be smart with the funds that we have and the return that investment will produce.

"We want everyone in the RAF to know what opportunities are out there and that they can get involved. A big part of my job is understanding who is doing sport and why they are doing it so we can get 100 per cent of people involved at some level."



MAN WITH A PLAN: RAF Deputy Director of Sport Callum Whitton



ABOVE: E-Sport is growing in popularity within the Service and must continue to do so to attract new, young recruits, says Whitton

RIGHT: Traditional sports such as football will always be hugely important within the Armed Forces

BELOW: Winners. RAF ladies celebrate winning the IS rugby championships in 2019





THE NEW WAY TO CONTACT YOUR MEDICAL CENTRE

FOR ADVICE ON:

- SYMPTOMS, CONDITIONS OR TREATMENT
- REPEAT PRESCRIPTIONS
- MEDICALS
- LIGHT DUTIES CHITS
- TEST RESULTS

TO GET STARTED:

1. GO TO ECONSULT AND FIND YOUR MEDICAL CENTRE
2. FIND YOUR SYMPTOM, CONDITION OR REQUEST
3. FILL OUT A QUICK FORM
4. YOUR PRACTICE RESPONDS WITH ADVICE, A PRESCRIPTION OR AN APPOINTMENT

