

The Forces' favourite paper

Fortress Britain: Myth of The Few

● See page 17



The engine that helped power WWII victory

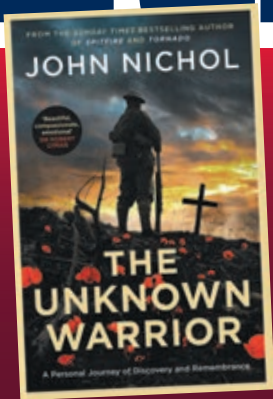
● See R'n'R page 5



ROYAL AIR FORCE

Friday, August 23, 2024
Edition No. 1591 £1.20

RAF News

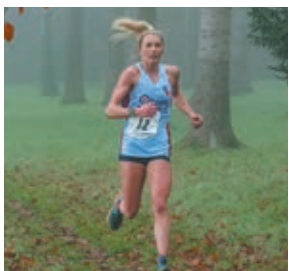


Veteran Nichol on the fallen and the grave of The Unknown Warrior



See pages 14-15

Sports
Ready for Nato games



● See page 25

Lifting
Brit Champs gold medal



● See page 27

Wakeboard
Family affair for Phillippses



● See page 28

Licence to chill

Dambusters'

Arctic debut



Amy Casey & Jenny Broome
Iceland

DAMBUSTER JETS are defending Iceland's airspace in their latest mission as the RAF's Lightnings are sent to police the Arctic skies for the first time.

Around 130 Marham-based personnel will spend four weeks collaborating with Allies to deter Russian aggression on Nato's northern flank.

● Continued on page 3

BiteSize

“It has been an honour to carry out repatriations,”



Logistics expert Sqn Ldr Stuart Masters as he leaves service
See p13

“I hate hecklers. I’ve never heard a witty heckle,”



Ben Elton as he embarks on a new stand-up tour of UK
See R’n’R pages 4-5

“There are many parallels with deployment,”



Sports chief Sqn Ldr Heather Ratnage-Black on AIRCOM Games
See p25



ROYAL AIR FORCE
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

Sport: 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
Email: rafnewssubs@subscriptionhelpline.co.uk

Lossie fuel first

TYPHOONS AND Poseidon subhunters are using a blend of conventional and sustainable aviation fuels in a first for the Air Force as they take to the skies to defend the UK and Allies.

Four million litres of blended sustainable aviation fuel have already been delivered to Lossiemouth through a contract with World Fuel Services. A further five million litres will be delivered in the next few months.

Defence Minister Lord Vernon Coaker said: “The pioneering use of sustainable fuels on routine operations shows how we’re delivering on our first priority to keep Britain secure without compromise, while addressing our carbon footprint.”

Using SAF can cut aircraft carbon emissions by up to 70 per cent and it is a significant step towards bolstering both operational capability and climate change and sustainability



efforts, the MOD said. Director Support AVM Shaun Harris said: “We remain at the forefront of this important work with industry partners, and introducing sustainable aviation

fuel to one of our busiest stations demonstrates our commitment, bringing Defence and industry together to reduce our carbon footprint. “As well as contributing to

reduced carbon emissions as part of the Defence Aviation Net Zero Strategy, our ability to use new fuels ensures that the Royal Air Force can continue to operate anywhere we are needed globally.”

This Week In History



1939 WAAF mobilised
THE WOMEN’S Auxiliary Air Force is mobilised as the War Ministry authorises the recruitment of women across a number of trades.

1944 Balkan evacuation
267 SQN Dakotas evacuate 1,059 Yugoslavian partisans and 16 Allied aircrew from a landing strip near Brezna.



1997 Princess repatriated
THE BODY of HRH Diana Princess of Wales is carried from a 32 Sqn BAE 146 at Northolt by members of The Queen’s Colour Sqn.

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



Party Crasher

FLYING LEGEND and RAF veteran 'Crasher' Jack Hemmings has celebrated turning 103 with the Red Arrows at the Eastbourne Airbourne show.

The former Sqn Ldr, who flew the Lockheed Hudson and Dakota with 353 Sqn in World War II and received the Air Force Cross, tucked into birthday cake with Red 10, Sqn Ldr Graeme Muscat, then watched the famous RAF aerobatics team's flying display.

Ground crew from the BBMF and other visiting pilots also

celebrated with Jack and his son Adrian.

Jack - who earned the nickname 'Crasher' when the Gemini he was piloting smashed into a banana tree in Burundi in 1947 - performed aerobatics on his 100th birthday and is thought to be the oldest British pilot to perform such manoeuvres.

After watching the Reds' special 60th season performance, he said: "It was a really extensive display and I don't recall ever seeing another one like it."



Lancs back in 'Black'

THE BBMF'S World War II Lancaster, PA474, returned to the skies with a show-stopping performance above huge crowds at the Blackpool Airshow.

The UK's last airworthy Lanc will continue its triumphant return with public displays for the rest of the airshow season.

Flt Lt Seb Davey, Bomber Leader, said: "After significant winter maintenance carried out by the ever-incredible BBMF Engineering Team, and a delayed start to the flying season, it was wonderful to be involved in the long-awaited return to display flying of the BBMF Lancaster.

"In particular, the unwavering support of the British airshow public was especially heartwarming and it was obvious to all that appearances by our beautiful Lancaster aircraft at public events had been sorely missed."

Typhoon paves the way for Lightning Arctic role

Land-based intercept sorties perfected with Eurofighter know-how

Continued from front page
Officer Commanding 617 (Dambusters) Sqn Wg Cdr Stewart Campbell said: "This means that we are held at alert 24/7 and ready to scramble the jets and intercept any unidentified aircraft that may infringe Icelandic airspace."

The F-35B fighters have taken off on Quick Reaction Alert combat missions six times against potential intruders from aircraft carriers at sea but this is their first experience of launching from dry land.

It's a vital skill now they are taking over one of Nato's five regional Air Policing missions as the Kremlin's illegal war in Ukraine takes another twist.

The Americans provided cover as part of their military presence until 2006 but since

May 2008, the Alliance has deployed fighters to Keflavik Air Base for up to four weeks, three times a year, as Iceland does not have its own Air Force.

But first, the Dambusters must prove they can scramble from the ground.

Nato assessor Major Allemeersch Patricia from the Belgium Air Force, who currently directs flights from Udem, said: "We know that the pilots are able to do QRA, but being in a different location, what we are looking at is that communications aren't lost, and the aircraft are scrambled flawlessly.

"When we arrived here the UK was ahead of schedule. They had done familiarisation flights; they went to the diversion airfield,



NORTHERN EXPOSURE: Marham F-35s

PHOTO: AS1 JODIE COSBY

which normally is done during the certification itself.

"We saw some areas of improvement that were required because QRA is not the standard role that this squadron executes but with good debriefing the standard went sky high and we are really satisfied."

Eurofighter crews, who fly QRA sorties from Coningsby and Lossiemouth, have passed on their top tips.

And the squadron has taken

lessons from personnel who took six jets from IX (B) Sqn to Romania to fly alongside the Finns to defend Nato's Eastern Border earlier this year.

"This will be the first time the UK F-35B has held QRA from a land base, we have done this several times from the Queen Elizabeth Class carriers but this is the first land-based QRA, so everyone is very excited to learn lessons from Typhoon and indeed other Nato Allies who

have already been in Iceland on this mission," said Wg Cdr Campbell.

Setting up their new home began three weeks before 617 Sqn started to arrive on the volcanic island. Logistics boss Flt Lt Nathaniel Logan said: "Our teams worked tirelessly to move more than 200 tons of equipment, ensuring everything needed was in place."

They were greeted by the local Coastguard, who regularly host Nato missions as Iceland remains the only member with no standing military.

Keflavik Air Base Commander Captain Jon Guonason said: "We are extremely happy to have the RAF here again, now for the first time with the F-35B Lightning."

The deployment is the latest display of Anglo-Icelandic comradeship.

Wg Cdr Campbell said: "We've very strong ties with all our Nato Allies but our friendship with Iceland dates back to the Second World War when the Royal Marines were the first Allies to land in this mutual country to show our protection to them during those hostilities."



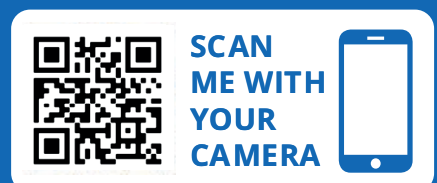
**Royal Air Force
Benevolent Fund**



**We're here
to support you**

Last year we supported **27,862** serving personnel and their families. This included over **12,000** individuals who were supported through our grants to RAF stations, wellbeing support and our Airplay youth support programme.

Find out how we can support you in 2024 and beyond: **rafbf.org/serving**



The RAF Benevolent Fund is a registered charity in England and Wales (1081009) and Scotland (SC038109).

In Brief



PIONEER: AM Dame Sue Gray

Gray matters

FORMER AIR Marshal Dame Sue Gray has taken up a new job heading the board of a UK-based synthetic aviation fuel pioneer.

Dame Sue retired from the RAF in 2022 after a 37-year career in which she made history as the first female three-star officer in the British Armed Forces and became Air Officer Commanding No. 38 Group.

An engineer by trade she will head up CirculAIRity's (sic) commitment to advancing large scale energy transition.

She said: "The company's practical approach to SAF production is essential for achieving global climate goals. I look forward to collaborating with the team to make a positive impact on the environment."



Fair play

LOSSIEMOUTH'S AIRPLAY youth support scheme has netted a £30,000 donation. The funds are part of a two-year grant from the MacRobert Trust.



Movers Pitch in to help out Down Under

ON THE MOVE: PNG Defence Force crews work alongside Coningsby Movers following Exercise Pitch Black in Australia

Simon Mander

WHEN FLIERS from Papua New Guinea wanted to get home from their first-ever appearance Down Under, they turned to the RAF for help.

For the first time in 43 years the island's Defence Force took part in Exercise Pitch Black 2024.

But when the time came for them to return their two PAC-750 aircraft from northern Australia across the Pacific movers from Lincolnshire came to the rescue.

Coningsby-based Cpl Adam Cairns said the newcomers were keen to learn how to get their equipment safely home.

He said: "The Royal Australian Air Force asked us if we could help mentor them to show our processes

and what we do to get our kit back to the UK. As a new branch in their military the Papuans were keen to see how other nations work."

Operating 9,000 miles from home, the six XI (F) Sqn Typhoons were supported by Brize Norton-based Voyager tanker and scores of RAF personnel.

The Papua New Guinea Defence Forces also brought a highly skilled maintenance crew to learn how to work in a quite different environment.

Detachment Commander Lt Col Doug Vavar said: "The PNGDF element is growing and eventually will become an Air Force built on capability and people. Exercise Pitch Black 2024 gives us the opportunity to improve our people."



MILITARY TRAINING: A member of the Cardiff FC Academy takes part in Brize fitness tests

Brize on-side for boot camp

Alex Gill

BRIZE NORTON football aces put Cardiff City stars through their paces with a military style boot camp training session.

The Welsh FC's Academy stars tested their fitness with a series of training challenges including Battle PT, drill and survival skills during a visit to the Oxfordshire station.

Cardiff Under 21's Manager Darren Purse said: "It's been a really worthwhile experience; the lads enjoyed their time on base.

"It provided some valuable insights into military life, and we were able to draw many parallels to what we are trying to build in our environment".

During the visit the players also got the chance to visit several sections and aircraft including a tour of an Atlas A400M, and to chat to transport crews.

RAF Football chief, Gp Capt



John Hetherington added: "It's a tremendous opportunity for the two organisations to learn from each other.

"We think there's a lot of similarities between preparing these young men to perform at the highest level of sport and what we do in the RAF which is preparing people to go on operations and perform to the highest level."



STONYHURST COLLEGE
AGES 11-18

Scholarships

available in
Academic, Drama,
Music & Sport
at 11+, 13+ & 16+

Open Days
in September
and October



Your *moment* to shine

Co-ed 11-18 | Boarding & Day
Jesuit, Catholic School

www.stonyhurst.ac.uk/scholarships

Serving forces families - pay just 10% of CEA



PERSONAL SUPPORT AND SOCIAL WORK SERVICE RAF



**WHATEVER YOU'RE FACING.
WHEREVER YOU ARE.
WE'VE GOT YOUR BACK.**

Confidential advice and support for the **whole** RAF family.

Call us **0800 058 4690** or
Chat with us ssafa.org.uk/raf



ssafa | the
Armed Forces
charity

**ROYAL
AIR FORCE**

SCAN HERE
TO LEARN MORE



ssafa.org.uk/raf

Registered as a charity in England and Wales Number 210760 in Scotland Number SC038056 and in Republic of Ireland Number 20202001. Established 1885. S906.0724

Special delivery

SAS hero Mick hits the wall at Cranwell

Simon Mander

SPECIAL FORCES veteran Michael Hawkes, who won a medal for thwarting a pipe bomb attack on a barracks in Northern Ireland, has signed on at Cranwell's wall of honour.

Former soldier Mick told future RAF, Royal Navy, and Army personnel at the Aircrew SERE training course how he earned The Queen's Commendation for Bravery.

Training Officer Mark Fairhead said: "He was a model guest, a kick the door in, no nonsense, no drama sort; passionate, humble, animated, talented and hugely knowledgeable, both as an operator and security specialist, he kept a very tired audience on the edge of their seats."

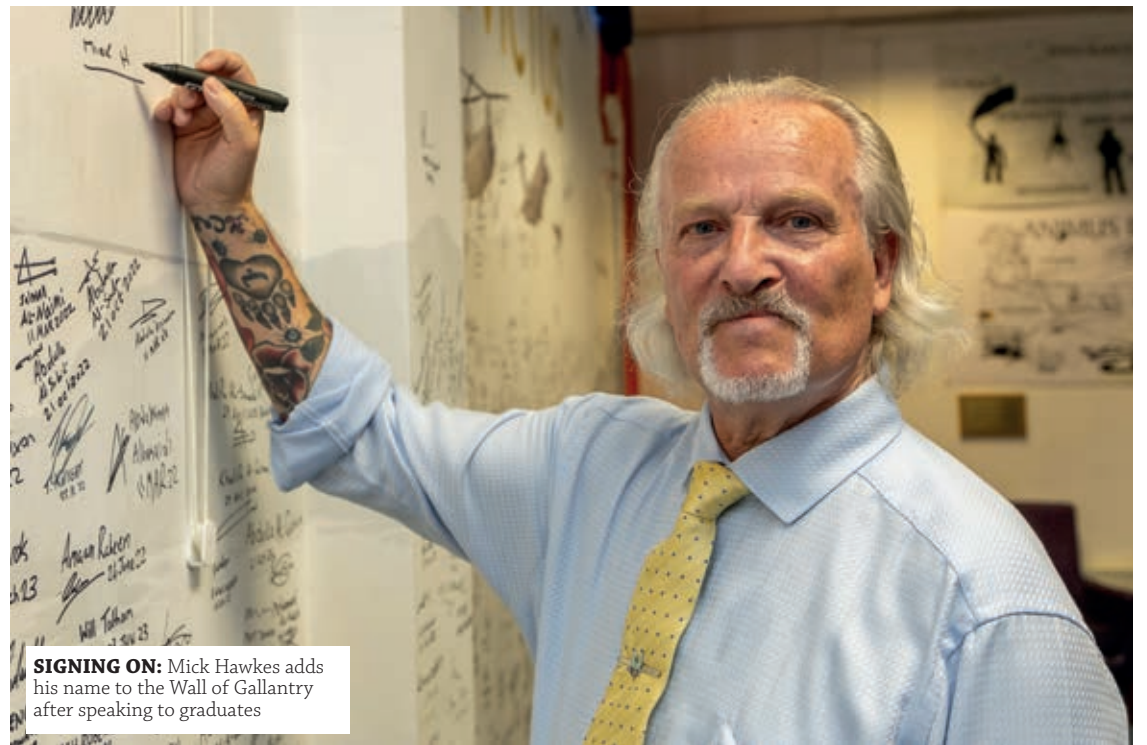
"We are

enormously grateful for his advice on how to tackle traumatic experiences and the psychological tools that can develop resilience and robustness in the face of adversity."

A talented footballer in his youth, Mick was frustrated by Lincoln City turning him down as a professional and, aged 15, decided to follow in his father's footsteps and join the Army.

Influenced by a recruiting sergeant in Grimsby in 1975, he became a junior paratrooper, but an injury forced him to leave the Army in 1978.

Six months later, with a pin through his ankle, he re-enlisted and posted to 29 Commando Royal Artillery in the special



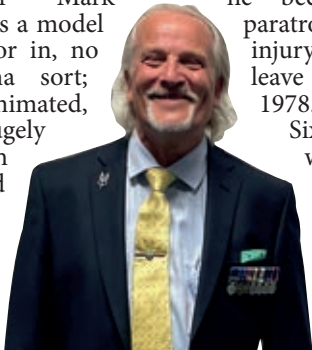
SIGNING ON: Mick Hawkes adds his name to the Wall of Gallantry after speaking to graduates

observation platoon. In 1982, Mick sailed for the Falklands War and later applied for Special Forces selection.

He spent 14 years with the SAS, the last two as chief

instructor, and now collaborates with his daughter in the family business specialising in personal safety and situational awareness training and rural community security development.

Mr Fairhead said: "Mick is the living embodiment of our motto, Animus Invictus - unconquered spirit - and, of course, of the Regiment's own, Who Dares Wins."



Beach boys



EXCHANGE OFFICERS have taken international cooperation to a new level after meeting up on a beach in Hawaii. Germany-based A400M Luftwaffe liaison Flt Lt Mark Jenkins took time off on the recent RIMPAC exercise to catch up with his pal - Luftwaffe exchange pilot Maj David Fischer, currently stationed at Brize. Mark, who has spent 10 of his 25 years service with the RAF in Germany, said: "David has been based at Brize since 2020 and this is the first time that we have met each other since he left for the UK."

Vets charity lands WWII ace's legacy

Simon Mander

A FIGHTER ACE has left £200,000 to help ex-Service personnel, 23 years after his death.

The buy-out of the Johnnie Johnson Housing Association in 2024 by national housing provider Sanctuary Group has triggered a stipulation that his original bequest of £100,000 be gifted to Armed Forces charity SSAFA.

And with a top up, the final amount donated was £200,000.

Former Air Vice-Marshal James 'Johnnie' Johnson built up a formidable reputation during WWII, becoming the highest-scoring RAF pilot.

In 515 sorties he destroyed 34 enemy fighters and damaged 10 others on the ground.

At a time when becoming an 'ace' meant five or more successes, Johnson shared in the destruction of seven aeroplanes and probably three more.

Leaving the RAF with a CB,

CBE, DSO and Two Bars, and a DFC and Bar, he founded a housing association in 1969 to provide affordable homes for veterans.

SSAFA Controller Lt Gen Sir Andrew Gregory received a cheque from Sanctuary at a ceremony at the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire.



ACE: Johnnie Johnson

He said: "Johnnie Johnson's legacy has lived on since his death in 2001 and will continue to do so through this donation to SSAFA as it supports personnel into the future."

Managing Director of Johnnie Johnson Housing, Kathryn Fox-Rogers, said: "We are all exceptionally proud of this housing association and of Johnnie himself."

Others attending included Deputy Lieutenant of Staffordshire Colonel David Leigh, Air Cdre Adam Sansom and Rayleigh and Wickford MP former Armed Forces Minister Mark Francois.



By Appointment to
H.M The Queen
Medallists
Worcestershire Medal Service Ltd.
Bromsgrove



Worcestershire Medal Service Ltd

Specialists in the manufacture and supply of full and miniature size medals, medal mounting and framing.



124 High Street
Bromsgrove
Worcestershire
B61 8HJ

01527 835375

www.worcmedals.com

sales@worcmedals.com



ADDICA

Promotional and Corporate Gifting

01527 509380

www.addica.co.uk

sales@addica.co.uk



Battlefield lasers eye drone threat



UNLIMITED FIRE POWER:
Above, laser is fired from Wolfhound armoured vehicle. Inset right, high-powered Dragonfire weapon destroys drone in tests earlier this year

Simon Mander

ANTI-AIRCRAFT LASER weapons have been fired from the back of a combat vehicle for the first time – paving the way for new counter drone systems.

Manufacturer Raytheon UK and Defence Equipment and Support successfully tested the device on ranges in Porton Down at full power mounted on a Wolfhound armoured car.

The weapon has been designed to defeat Nato class 1 drones whilst being easily compatible within existing air defence systems, including radar, command and control.

“We have proven that the high-energy laser weapon system can track and engage targets whilst mounted on a vehicle,” said James Gray, chief executive and managing director of Raytheon UK.

“Joint working has enabled rapid evolution of this laser demonstrator. The testing marks a pivotal moment in our efforts to enhance future operational capabilities,” said Matt Cork,

Dstl programme lead. “This technology offers a precise, powerful and cost-effective means to defeat aerial threats, ensuring greater protection for our forces.”

Raytheon’s system is certified for use in combat with US forces and in service it has logged more than 40,000 testing hours and downed more than 400 targets.

The next phase will allow UK personnel to familiarise themselves with the system.

The latest trials follow the first live test firing of the Dragonfire laser weapon against multiple drone targets at the MOD’s weapons range in the Hebrides, in February this year.

The new generation of direct energy weapons are designed to destroy on-board systems, igniting explosive weapons, offering frontline fighters a low-cost alternative to conventional weapons and ammunition.

They can strike any target from over 1km away and a 10 second blast costs the equivalent of using a domestic electric heater for 10 minutes, the MOD said.

In Brief



FUNDRAISIER: ACM Sir Richard Knighton joins Hayley and guests at last year’s event

On the ball

AIR FORCE charity Healing Military Minds is gearing up for its annual fundraising ball.

The glitzy event netted more than £20,000 last year to support Forces fighters battling mental health problems and organisers are hoping to smash that figure with a line-up including Status Quo veteran John Coghlan and Brize Norton’s house band AK-47.

Organiser Hayley Court said: “This is more than just an event; it’s a chance to make a real difference in the lives of our brave Service members and their families. Let’s come together for a night of celebration, compassion, and community.”

The event takes place at the De Vere Cotswold Water Park on November 16. For details go to Healing Military Minds social media pages.



27 SQN Chinooks fly over rugged Scottish terrain as they head home to Odiham from Lossiemouth following Exercise Tartan Tusker.

Air Force crews joined Army ground troops and Royal Marines for the drill, flying simulated combat sorties to insert and evacuate ground forces in remote areas of the Highlands.

News



SPORTS LOTTERY

THE VITAL LIFELINE FOR RAF SPORT

DID YOU KNOW? Your membership helps to provide the majority of the much needed funding for sport in the RAF.

Join today or increase your tickets at:

www.rafcf.org.uk



JUST £1 PER TICKET!



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.

Registered office: Hurricane Building | HQ Air Command | RAF High Wycombe | Bucks | HP14 4UE
Principal office: RAF Central Fund Danesfield | New Lock Lane | Henley Road | Medmenham | SL7 2EY

Shakti attack

Eurofighter nations'

India training debut



Simon Mander

BRITISH TYPHOONS are taking part in the first-ever multinational air manoeuvres organised by the Indian Air Force.

Fresh from training in Australia the Coningsby-based jets joined Exercise Tarang Shakti on the way home.

OC 11 (F) Squadron, Wg Cdr Mark Robertson, said: "This exercise offers similar training to Australia, and we are focusing on integrating with lots of partner nations in multi-aircraft packages."

"I have taken part in UK training with the Indian Air Force and the challenges and opportunities are the same – we both operate highly effective aircraft, but they are not designed to operate together."

"Part of the focus is on learning how to operate together with different machinery and on the RAF's commitment to partnership in this region."

Six Typhoons supported by two Brize-based Voyager aircraft, an A400M and more than 130 personnel are taking part.

Since arriving at Sulur Air

Force Station in Tamil Nadu, Southern India, the RAF detachment has been joined by the German, Spanish and French air forces.

The training follows the Indian Air Force's participation last year on the RAF-led Cobra Warrior.

Wg Cdr Robertson added: "It has been a busy time for the squadron and this deployment also builds on our exercises last year in Malaysia and Qatar and the exercise we conducted in Saudi Arabia at the beginning of this year. It is crucial that our Armed Forces work together to preserve stability and enhance prosperity in the Indo-Pacific."

Air Advisor to the British High Commissioner, Gp Capt Neil Jones, said: "It demonstrates the RAF's ability to deploy and sustain air operations over great distances and maintain an effective strong presence in the Indo-Pacific, whilst collaborating with partner nations; it is a pleasure for us to be here."

Chief of the Air Staff of the Indian Air Force ACM Vivek Chaudhari said: "I strongly believe Tarang Shakti will become a regular exercise in the future."



Name game

THOUSANDS OF Vulcan fans have signed up to have their names displayed on an iconic Cold War bomber.

The Vulcan to the Sky Trust, responsible for XH558, offered aviation enthusiasts the chance to have their names etched on the aircraft bomb bay to raise funds.

Trust chief executive Marc Walters said: "The response has been overwhelming. It's heartening to see so many people eager to become part of XH558's legacy."

The bomber played a crucial role in Britain's



Cold War after coming into service in 1960.

XH558 was demobbed in 1993 and became the world's last flying Vulcan until it was grounded in 2014.

● **Go to:** vulcantothetasky.org/product/names-under-xh558s-bomb-bay

Royal Air Force

In Concert

CAST, Doncaster

Band of the Royal Air Force College

Thursday 19 September

Palace Theatre, Newark

Band of the Royal Air Force College

Friday 20 September

Playhouse, Weston Super Mare

Central Band of the Royal Air Force

Friday 27 September

West Road Concert Hall, Cambridge

Band of the Royal Air Force Regiment

Friday 4 October

Terry O'Toole Theatre, Lincoln

Royal Air Force Swing Wing

Friday 25 October

 **ROYAL Music**
AIR FORCE Charitable Trust

rafmct.uk



baesystems.com/defence-resilience

Proven capability in an uncertain world



BAE SYSTEMS

In Brief



REPORT: RAFBF programmes like the Airplay scheme helping Forces families

Charity delivers for RAF family

MORE THAN 42,000 veterans and serving personnel sought help from the RAF Benevolent Fund last year, according to figures released by the charity.

Welfare bosses provided help with childcare, financial assistance and mental health support to more than 27,000 Service regulars and reservists, while veterans made more than 14,000 calls for help.

Air Vice-Marshal Chris Elliot, Controller of the RAF Benevolent Fund, said: "During another difficult year, we continued to act as the vital safety net for all those in the RAF Family."

"We are ready to respond to the unexpected challenges that can often suddenly appear in all our lives."

"For those who needed us we responded by ensuring that our vital services and tailored solutions positively changed the outcomes for many."

Pitch perfect



Typhoons' UK return

after Oz combat drill



Simon Mander

TYPHOONS HAVE returned to their British air bases after taking part in Exercise Pitch Black, one of the world's largest multi-national combat drills.

Six Coningsby-based IX(F) Sqn jets flew from RAAF Darwin for 117 hours on 17 sorties as part of the three-week Australian-led war games.

IX(F) Sqn pilot Flt Lt Steven Inch said: "We are here to work together with other nations that we don't often get the chance to operate with."

"Typhoon is fully multi-role, therefore we have been taking part in air-to-air and

air-to-ground missions, some of which are swing roles."

The exercise was first held in 1981 and this year hosted the largest number of personnel in its history, from 20 nations.

Crews carried out basic manoeuvres and advanced combat techniques before splitting into aggressor and defender forces to hone dogfighting and ground attack skills across the vast Australian training area.

Personnel on XI(F) Sqn renewed friendships with the RAAF's 1 Sqn, who they flew alongside in Exercise Bersama Lima in 2023.

Keeping the jets airborne was a RAF Voyager from Brize which flew from

RAAF Amberley in Brisbane as part of a multi-national tanker force from Australia, Singapore, France and other Nato nations.

Ground engineers and technicians worked around the clock to ensure jets were ready to fly and fight.

Senior Engineering Officer Sqn Ldr Fenella Allery said: "We've done an exchange programme with the RAAF and have been working with engineering teams from the Spanish, French and Italian air forces, who also fly Typhoon."

RAF Police teamed up with the Australian Security Forces Flight on joint patrols and guard duties, while chefs fed the more than 4,000 personnel taking part.

Brize Mover Stu's moving on

Simon Mander

MOVEMENTS SPECIALIST Sqn Ldr Stuart Masters has transported most things during his 40-year RAF career.

But one of the missions that stands out is the repatriation of Service personnel while Brize Norton Base Support Wing boss.

He said: "Controlling the repatriation of any Service personnel who had passed away whilst on operations was one of the most rewarding but sad roles."

"Fortunately, it was quite infrequent but was my honour to ensure the repatriation went smoothly and with compassion for bereaved families."

Since enlisting in 1984, Sqn Ldr Masters' roles have varied from a passenger check-in clerk to cargo export specialist, from a C-17 movements evaluator to detachments to the Middle East.



CLASS OF 84: Stuart Masters (circled), then an SAC, with colleagues at Brize Norton

After promotion to Warrant Officer he commissioned into the Logistics Branch working with civilians at the Oxfordshire base then ensuring dangerous goods and oversized items were safely

transported around the globe on operations and exercises.

He was later posted to Benson as second in command Logs Sqn working under Joint Helicopter Command.

He said: "The RAF has given me so many amazing job opportunities and the ability to travel and take part in sports."



Mystery of the Unknown Warrior

... and what it can teach us about the importance of honouring *all* the

IT WAS while he was at Westminster Abbey for the service to commemorate the centenary of the RAF in 2018 that John Nichol was inspired to find out more about the Unknown Warrior, buried at the Abbey.

A two-year project, described by Nichol as a 'very personal journey' followed as the bestselling author and former RAF Tornado Navigator carried out intensive research to uncover the Unknown Warrior's dramatic story.

That story is the subject of Nichol's latest book - his 19th - *The Unknown Warrior* (simonsandschuster.co.uk) published on September 26, and a six-week theatre tour that runs from October 4 to November 7.

The tour has been called 'a remarkable, fascinating and highly emotive experience' which sees the author retrace the Unknown Warrior's journey home from the World War I battlefields of Northern France to Westminster Abbey for burial. The show promises to bring the story and history of the Unknown Warrior to life with haunting visuals and an arousing soundscape.

Nichol said: "This is something very different for me. All my previous books had an aviation theme. I realised on that day at the Abbey that although I had seen the Warrior's grave so many times, I didn't really know anything about it."

More than a million British Empire soldiers were killed during WWI and, astonishingly, more than a century later, over a half a million still have no known grave, said Nichol. And many of the 55,573 Bomber Command aircrew who were killed during World War II are still missing.

Nichol hit the headlines in 1991 when his aircraft was shot down during the Iraq war and he and his pilot John Peters were taken captive, tortured, and paraded on TV. He drew on his own experience of combat and the death of colleagues for his latest book and spoke to relatives



DEEP IN THOUGHT: Author John Nichol pays his respects at the grave of the Unknown Warrior in Westminster Abbey

of those who have died in more recent conflicts.

It was the Reverend David Railton, an Army chaplain who served in WWI and was awarded the Military Cross for saving several men under heavy fire, who first had the idea of a

symbolic grave to represent all the military personnel lost in battle and to be a focal point for grieving families and colleagues.

Nichol said: "In 1916, in a back garden in Armentieres, in northern France, Padre Railton had seen the grave of an

unknown soldier, marked with a small cross. That stayed with him all through the war.

"He was involved in identifying, recording and burying dead soldiers. He approached the Dean of Westminster, Bishop Herbert

Ryle, with the idea for the Unknown Warrior's grave."

It was supported by King George V and the government.

A temporary cenotaph had been built in 1919, of wood and plaster, designed by Edwin Lutyens, for a parade held to mark a year since the end of the war. It was replaced with a permanent memorial made of Portland stone and unveiled in Whitehall on Armistice Day, November 11, 1920.

The body of the Unknown Warrior - brought from France on November 7 - was buried at the Abbey while the Cenotaph was being unveiled. But who was he?

Nichol explained: "That's the whole point of it, nobody knows. Four unidentified bodies of British Servicemen were selected from the four main battle areas [the Aisne, the Somme, Arras and Ypres]. Brigadier General LJ Wyatt, the General Officer in charge of troops in France and Flanders, chose one of the bodies, which was placed in a plain coffin.

"As one little boy who applied for a ticket to the ceremony wrote, 'the man in that coffin could be my daddy'. The country needed somebody at that time who could represent all those men who had made the ultimate sacrifice."

Railton went on to be Rector of Liverpool and, in 1939, volunteered for active service, aged 55. He was turned down as a temporary chaplain because he was over 40.

Nichol said: "Determined to serve his country once more, he explored various other avenues and eventually, in 1943, the Royal Air Force appointed him as one of seven prominent clergymen or 'super chaplains'. He would spend two weeks a month visiting squadrons and facilities, doing what he could to boost the men's spiritual health and morale, as well as holding services."

Sadly, Railton met an untimely death in an accident on his way home from London to Scotland in 1955 when he fell from a train. He was 70.

By Tracey Allen

Unknown Warrior

Out the fallen



CREATOR: Padre David Railton first had the idea to honour fallen troops after seeing a simple grave to an unknown soldier in northern France in 1916



PROUD: Rev Railton's daughter-in-law Margaret with Nichol

Nichol said: "It was really tragic. It was very moving to talk to his daughter-in-law Margaret about her memories of him. She said he never spoke about the fact he had won the Military Cross or about his involvement with the grave of the Unknown Warrior. He was a very humble man."

To bring the story up to date, Nichol spoke to those who have lost loved ones in more modern conflicts, including the Falklands War, and the war in Afghanistan.

He said: "The story expanded from the Unknown Warrior into one about loss, grieving, the reality of not having a grave for a loved one and how we remember and honour the fallen."

He added: "If we don't remember and honour them, what are we? If we ignore those who have gone before us we are poorer for it."

"When I attend the National Service of Remembrance I see the crowds getting larger every year as more and more people understand the importance of marking sacrifice."

● Go to: JohnNicholLive.com for a full list of tour dates.



WE HAVE signed copies of *The Unknown Warrior* by John Nichol to win. For your chance to win one, tell us: Where is the body of The Unknown Warrior buried?

Email your answer, marked Unknown Warrior book competition, to: tracey.allen@rafnews.co.uk or post it to: RAF News, Room 68, Lancaster Building, HQ Air Command, High Wycombe HP14 4UE, to arrive by September 20.

Win!

SYMBOLIC: Unknown Warrior's coffin





Squadron Leader John Peters Gulf War PoW

Tuesday 17th September 2024 at 7pm
RAF Coltishall Heritage Centre, Norwich NR10 5FB

John Peters came to the world's attention in January 1991 during the first Gulf War, when his bruised and battered face flashed onto television screens around the world. It was his disfigured image that became a potent symbol of Saddam Hussein's ruthless aggression. His dramatic and sometimes harrowing experiences reach deep into our innermost minds, showing us how we can overcome even our worst fears and nightmares. His war was not all as he expected – it became a seven-week ordeal of torture and interrogation testing John Peters to the absolute limit and bringing him close to death. By no means a doom and gloom story, his insights are powerful, passionate, emotive & challenging with an innate sense of humour.

John started his career as an RAF fast-jet pilot flying Tornado GR1. Many will remember him from the first Gulf War in 1991 as the bruised and battered POW who was paraded on Iraqi State television. Subsequently, he has written two best-selling books on his experiences; 'Tornado Down' and 'Team Tornado', and the

documentary; 'Tornado Down' was Independent Documentary of the Year and a BAFTA Award Nominee.

This experience sparked an international business speaker reputation that has spanned the last 30 years. Of note, he was the sole reader representing the British Armed Forces at the National Gulf Memorial Service, in front of Her Majesty, The Queen, presented the Sir James Martin Lecture at the Royal Aeronautical Society in the presence of Prince Philip, and has followed Mr Nelson Mandela on stage in South Africa.

In 2000, John retired from the RAF to start his own management consultancy firm. Working internationally with corporates, business schools, government and the Third Sector, Monkey Business provides business critical development, consulting and coaching through a leadership lens. John lives in the Worcestershire countryside with his wife, Helen, and dog Spartacus. His son is a City banker and daughter an Event Manager.

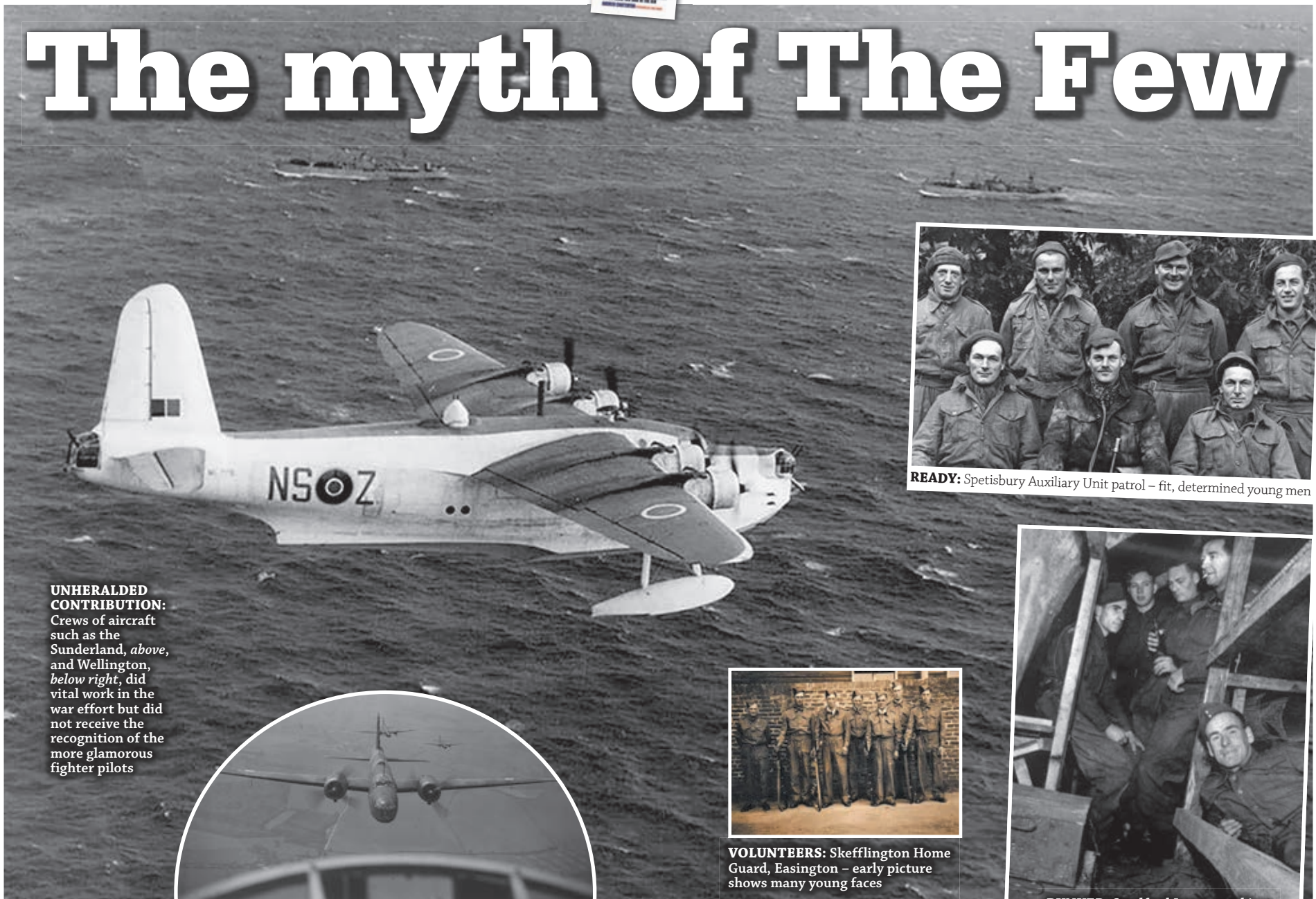


Come and listen to Squadron Leader John Peters share his incredible story as a Prisoner of War. An inspirational talk that you won't want to miss. Tickets are priced at £30 each and include refreshments.

To book please scan the QR code or email:
Carl Lamb - carl.lamb1988@gmail.com



The myth of The Few



UNHERALDED CONTRIBUTION: Crews of aircraft such as the Sunderland, above, and Wellington, below right, did vital work in the war effort but did not receive the recognition of the more glamorous fighter pilots



READY: Spetisbury Auxiliary Unit patrol – fit, determined young men



VOLUNTEERS: Skeffington Home Guard, Easington – early picture shows many young faces



BUNKER: Sandford Levy patrol in a probably 'illegal' shot of the bunker they were expected to operate from

Simon Mander

AS A debunking exercise *Fortress Britain 1940* will doubtless raise the hackles of some Battle of Britain enthusiasts as we approach its anniversary.

Because the story we have all been told about the UK 'standing alone' against the might of the Blitzkrieg that had swept through Europe is not what we thought it was.

Indeed, far from unprepared and weak, author Andrew Chatterton says the reality was quite different.

As he writes: "To place all the credit simply on one aspect of the defensive efforts (namely Spitfires) does a huge disservice to the unsung and secret elements that for so long remained unrecognised."

"It was in its essence a mass effort, from every aspect of British life, impacting everyone, every day from 1940."

Thus, it is not until page 195 that the RAF gets a mention, and it is not the narrative of them forming the thin blue line between Britain and Nazi domination.

It is to the so-called

Brave though they were, Battle of Britain pilots had the whole of the UK behind them

'Cinderella' parts of the Service – from the Dowding System's network of radars to the plane spotters of the Observer Corps and the role of Bomber Command in attacking cross-Channel barges and Coastal Command's U-boat war – to which attention is directed.

And that is no reason not to read this book.

The kit was unsatisfactory, with Chatterton describing the Hampden, Blenheim, Whitley, and Wellington as 'stop-gap bombers' before the Lancaster was introduced in 1942.

"However, these less-than adequate bombers still played a critical – and often, for their crews, suicidal – role in defending Britain in 1940 and yet they get so little recognition," he says.

And far from the bumbling incompetence of Mainwaring, Wilson and Corporal Jones in Jimmy Perry's classic *Dad's Army*, the Home Guard and auxiliary units were more than prepared had the Nazis executed Operation Sealion and invaded.



ALERT: Britain's Coastal Defence units

Indeed, some chapters more resemble Guy Ritchie's spy action comedy *The Ministry of Ungentlemanly Warfare* as Chatterton takes us on a tour of the MI5 and MI6-recruited guerrilla groups often manned by combat hardened WWI vets who faced the Wehrmacht, even if it had got ashore.

Before that, they would have had to get past the Royal Navy, which vastly outnumbered

and outgunned the German Kriegsmarine.

Inspired by his first book, *Britain's Secret Defences*, through subsequent blogs and newly-discovered information Chatterton seeks to give those forgotten civilian defences the recognition they deserve.

And one of the most persuasive arguments for his thesis comes from a war game at Army Staff College. It featured, among others, ex-Luftwaffe ace General Adolf Galland and Battle of Britain Hurricane pilot DSO winner Air Chief Marshal Sir Christopher Foxley-Norris.

Recreating conditions at the time, the accuracy of bombing, the laying of sea mines, (known by the RAF as 'gardening') and even railway timetables and the weather, the results are surprising.

They show that even if the Germans had landed their first wave of barges on Britain's beaches, the second and third would have been intercepted by the Royal Navy.

"Isolated and attacked by the

regular forces and Home Guard, the invading force's position was untenable.

"The Germans suffered terrible casualties. Of the 90,000 troops successfully landed, only 15,400 made it back to France."

The rest were captured, killed, or drowned.

There has been a trend of 'what if?' stories that take a Nazi takeover of Britain as a starting point – certainly in fiction, Robert Harris' *Fatherland* springs to mind.

This is not one, nor is *Fortress Britain 1940* a political argument posing as history.

By using otherwise dry-as-dust official accounts to lend its argument authority and gripping first-hand accounts, this book turns what we think of as the past completely on its head. Perhaps it's something to think about at the annual Battle of Britain parade?

● *Fortress Britain 1940 Britain's Unsung and Secret Defences on Land, Sea and in the Air* by Andrew Chatterton is published by Casemate, priced £20.

Obituary Air Cdre Ruth Montague



WRAF MEMORIAL: Monument at the National Arboretum was built with the fundraising help of Air Cdre Ruth Montague



WRAF chief Ruth was a trail-blazer for women in Air Force

AIR COMMODORE Ruth Montague, Director of the Women's Royal Air Force from 1989 to 1994, has died aged 85.

Born in 1939 in Buxton, Derbyshire, Ruth Montague (née Griffiths) was educated at Cavendish Grammar School for Girls, Buxton, and at Bedford College, University of London, in Regent's Park; she graduated with a degree in Physics in 1961. After completing a post-graduate secretarial course at Manchester College of Commerce, in 1962 she took a short-service commission in the RAF, undertaking officer training at RAF Jurby, Isle of Man.

Ruth's first appointment was as an education officer at RAF Wittering near Stamford, then a nuclear V-force base during the Cold War. She then took a permanent commission and was posted to RAF Seletar in Singapore. On her return to the UK she served at RAF Northolt (London military airport) and at RAF Uxbridge (home of RAF Ceremonial and RAF Music, including the WRAF Band).

Promoted to Squadron Leader in 1972, she undertook an administrative task within the Air Staff at HQ Strike Command, High Wycombe, for the Bombing Competition between the Royal

Air Force and US Strategic Air Command, following which she became the Senior Education Officer at RAF High Wycombe, with the secondary duty of OC WRAF, responsible for the welfare and discipline of some 200 airwomen.

In 1976 she moved to No 1 School of Technical Training, RAF Halton, as the first woman officer to instruct in electrical/electronic engineering. Her next posting was to the staff of the Individual Studies School at the RAF Staff College, Bracknell, first as a tutor and then as Deputy OC.

From 1981 to 1983, she was a staff officer on the Command Education and Training Staff at HQ Strike Command. Promoted to Wing Commander in 1983, she returned to the Individual Studies School as Officer Commanding, the first woman to hold that appointment. In 1986, she was posted to the Ministry of Defence, London, as Deputy Director Women's Royal Air Force and promoted to Group Captain in 1987.

On October 27, 1989, Ruth was promoted to Air Commodore and appointed as Director Women's Royal Air Force and as an ADC to Her Majesty The Queen.

For 1990 and 1991 she was UK Delegate to the Committee on Women in the Nato

Forces and was Chairman of the Committee for 1992 and 1993. In July 1990 she assumed additional responsibilities for RAF welfare as Director of Personnel Services 3(RAF). She retired from the RAF on May 31, 1994, as the last Director WRAF.

In 1990 Ruth had been appointed to the Council of the RAF Benevolent Fund; she continued this voluntary activity into her retirement from the RAF until 2003 when she assumed a further unpaid appointment as Chairman of the Advisory Board of Princess Marina House, the Fund's care home in West Sussex. In 2008, she was awarded the medal of the Order of Mercy for her 17 years of involvement with the Fund.

Her alma mater had amalgamated with Royal Holloway College in 1985 at the Egham Campus and in 1994 she was invited to become a member of Council. She served on numerous Council committees and was the founder Chairman of the Alumni Advisory Group which played a central role in developing alumni relations, programmes of events and fundraising. She retired from Council in 2003 and her voluntary work for the college was recognised by her induction in 2006 as an Honorary Fellow of Royal Holloway and Bedford New College,

University of London.

In 2021, Ruth was asked to support the WRAF Memorial Fundraising Group, which she did wholeheartedly. In her characteristic way Ruth cared for and admired all the women with whom she had served. She followed its progress closely, and was invited to the unveiling at the National Memorial Arboretum. Sadly, ill health prevented her from attending on the day, but her words were given by proxy.

In 1966, on her return from Singapore, Ruth married Roland A 'Monty' Montague; they met at Wittering, where he was a Navigator on 100 Squadron. He left the RAF in 1964 after completing a medium Service commission and then worked in civil aviation, firstly as a civilian Air Traffic Control Officer and then for 30 years as a Flight Crew Training Officer with BEA/British Airways.

On his retirement in 1997 he continued his voluntary duties begun in 1982 as a Justice of the Peace in the Royal County of Berkshire. They had moved to a house in the Thames Valley in 1970, where they enjoyed gardening, DIY, clay pigeon shooting and swimming in the pool that Monty had originally dug by hand; they also had many enjoyable holidays overseas. Monty died in November 2015.

AM Sir Peter Norriss KBE, CB, AFC

Obituary

Air chief who tested navigation skills of then Prince Charles

Sir Peter was Buccaneer and Tornado boss and procurement supremo

AIR MARSHAL Sir Peter Norriss, who has died aged 80, tested the Prince of Wales during his flying training before flying Buccaneer and Tornado aircraft. He went on to fill senior appointments in the MOD operational requirements directorate and the procurement executive.

The eldest of three boys, all of whom served with distinction as RAF pilots, he read Modern Languages at Magdalene College, Cambridge, where he joined the University Air Squadron and won the Hack Trophy as the best aerobatic pilot in the annual competition amongst all the university squadrons.

He joined the RAF in 1966 and immediately after gaining his pilot's 'wings' he was selected to attend the Central Flying School to train as a flying instructor. On completion of the course, he trained flight cadets at the RAF College Cranwell. During this period, he tested the then Prince of Wales, who was undergoing his pilot training at the College, on his navigation test, which he assessed as 'above average'.

He was a member of the college display team, the Poachers, and was the solo aerobatic display pilot. In competition with fellow instructors throughout the RAF, his aerobatic display won him the Wright Jubilee Trophy.

Laarbruch

It was common practice at the time that those who had been instructors on their first appointment were able to choose their next flying appointment. Norriss' father had been a production manager during the build of the Buccaneer at the Blackburn factory at Brough so, in 1971, Norriss elected to fly the Buccaneer.

After completing his conversion to the strike/attack aircraft, he was posted to join No. XV Squadron based at Laarbruch on the Dutch-German border. This was the first of three tours on the Buccaneer.

In September 1974 he was appointed the Chief Flying Instructor (CFI) of the Buccaneer



TOP PILOT:
Peter Norriss

conversion unit based at Honington in Suffolk. During his two years he was the official Buccaneer display pilot. For his services as the CFI, he was awarded the AFC.

Black Saints

After attending the RAF Staff College and serving in MOD, he returned to Laarbruch in April 1980 to take command of 16 Squadron. At the time, the Buccaneer force was grounded following an aircraft fatigue failure resulting in the loss of the two-man crew. This was a testing time for a Buccaneer squadron commander as the future of the aircraft remained in the balance for some months. Despite the uncertain integrity of the Buccaneer airframe, Norriss was required to maintain an aircraft at 15 minutes readiness in the nuclear role. The squadron acquired several Hunter aircraft, and these were used to maintain the currency of the aircrew until the Buccaneer was cleared to fly again in July 1980.

In June 1982 he was tasked to provide a four-aircraft formation

for the flypast to commemorate HM The Queen's official 56th birthday flypast at the NATO headquarters at Rheindahlen. Encouraged by this 'requirement' he formed and led the RAF's only ever Buccaneer display team, which he called the Black Saints, to commemorate the squadron's formation at St Omer during World War I. The formation team performed at several air displays across Germany.

The Queen

Under Norriss' leadership, 16 Squadron deployed from Laarbruch to Exercise Red Flag at Nellis Air Force Base in Arizona, without air-to-air refuelling, crossing the Atlantic from St Mawgan in Cornwall to Gander in Newfoundland via the Azores. The final leg from a base in Texas to Nellis was completed at low level and took the aircraft along the length of the Grand Canyon, before arriving in a diamond nine formation to impress their USAF hosts.

In January 1984, Norriss became Head of the RAF Presentation Team before

assuming command of Marham in Norfolk, the home of two Tornado strike/attack squadrons and the Victor air-to-air refuelling force. A popular station commander, he became operational on the Tornado and converted to the Victor, his first experience of flying a four-engine aircraft. He was appointed ADC to The Queen.

In 1988, he returned to London where he started a long association with the world of procurement. He served two consecutive appointments on MOD's operational requirements staffs as both a Group Captain and an Air Commodore. As Director of Operational Requirements, he became heavily involved in implementing a series of 'urgent operational requirements' for all aircraft deployed for the First Gulf War. Most notable was the installation of secure radios compatible with US forces, many electronic detection and countermeasure systems and significant upgrading of helicopter engine protection to cope with the hostile sand environment. The

deployment of a thermal imaging airborne laser designating system and the accelerated introduction of the air-launched anti-radiation missile (ALARM) were key operational enhancements. The need to work closely with industry for the incorporation of these highly effective measures was a vital contribution to the eventual success of the operation.

He next served as a Director General to the MOD Procurement Executive in 1991.

After attending Harvard Business School, Norriss rejoined the Procurement Executive in November 1995 as Director General Aircraft Systems. On promotion in October 1996, he became Controller Aircraft (CA) and Deputy Chief of Defence Procurement (Operations). For the latter, he was responsible for procuring equipment for all three Services and as CA he was a member of the Air Force Board responsible for delivering an airworthy aircraft to the Services. He retired from the RAF in 2001 and undertook several reviews for the Office of Government Commerce.

Air Cadets

He was a Fellow of the Royal Aeronautical Society and served on several committees before being elected as president for 2003-04. This coincided with the 100th Anniversary of the first flight in 1903 by the Wright Brothers, an event that generated numerous additional engagements to his busy schedule.

Norriss never lost his love of flying and in 2003 he joined No 3 Air Experience Flight as a Flying Officer, where he spent the next eight years giving air cadets an introduction to flying.

He was a founder member of the Buccaneer Aircrew Association and for more than 30 years barely missed an annual reunion. He became president in 2015. In May this year, despite the ravages of cancer, he presided at the association's dinner in London and delivered a courageous and inspiring address.

Sir Peter Norriss was appointed CB (1996) and KBE (2000).

Under The Disc

A newly formed group led by RAF Odiham to unite serving and ex-serving personnel who have worked closely with the Chinook Force.

Under The Disc aims to **bring together current and ex-serving members** of the Armed Forces who are working or have previously worked closely with the Chinook Force. The aim is to **reconnect, socialise, and most importantly remain part of the Chinook family!**

For its inaugural event, members will be invited to RAF Odiham for a coffee morning hosted by the Chinook Force Commander, Group Captain Matt Roberts alongside attendance from SSAFA, RAFA and RAF Benevolent Fund. The event will take place on **Tuesday 10 September 2024** in 18(B) Squadron's hangar where food and drink will be provided. Further details will be communicated to members in due course.



To become a member, please send your name, email address and details of your affiliation with the Chinook Force to Squadron Leader Adam Calvesbert.

Contact email: adam.calvesbert362@mod.gov.uk



SUPPORTED BY



**Royal Air Force
Benevolent Fund**

Under The Disc is based at RAF Odiham, Hampshire. RAF Odiham is the home of the UK Chinook Force, operating three Chinook squadrons, 18(B) Sqn, 27 Sqn and 7 Sqn.

28 Sqn is a training squadron based at RAF Benson.



Tim Morris

Kia EV9 (from £65,025 otr)

Motoring



HUGE: Kia's EV9 is more than 6ft wide and 16ft long

SOUTH KOREA is well noted for producing 'left-of-field' hits that unexpectedly take the world by storm. K-Pop, for example, is a phenomenon that very few saw coming and yet we're still struggling to get Gangnam Style out of our heads, years later. The recent Stray Kids concert at Hyde Park was a complete sell-out too, so it's no fluke. The moral of all this is that if it's Korean and catchy, with bags of style, it will probably do very well over here.

Take Kia's new EV9, Korea's electric answer to the Range Rover. It's odd-ball, in many ways, and yet, equally brilliant. Kia and its majority shareholder, Hyundai, have started a Korean EV revolution over the past few years. Cars like the EV6 GT and the Ioniq 6 have stolen a march on some of Europe's best premium marques already and the EV9 bursts onto the scene at a time when it's a relatively rare, fully-electric, full-size, seven-seat SUV.

The full-fat, four-wheel drive version of this car will set you back upwards of £73k, so it's not a cheap motor by any means, but it is spectacular, particularly in the detail. Our test car weighed in a fair bit cheaper, at £65,025 for the 99.8kWh, rear-wheel-drive, 'AIR' model but still came with most of the whistles and bells. Its party-piece, the ability to park itself remotely once you've exited the vehicle. How cool is that?

Exterior

It's a bad-boy, for sure. At over 16 feet long, with a menacing front end, it has presence in spades. The quirky, angular haunches, complex LED lights, tailgate spoiler and the fold-away Range Rover-style door handles make it stand out like the Batmobile at a Dacia show. Its Korean cool won't be for everyone but, if you want to make a statement with a big SUV, it's one heck of a talking point.

Interior

If you're expecting fat-cat luxury SUV opulence, you're going to be slightly disappointed here because the interior is largely made of sustainably sourced materials. There's no real leather and the plastics are either recycled, or grown. That said, the EV9 has Kia's best interior yet, so let's keep this in perspective.

The covering on the steering wheel, for example, is a slippery vinyl affair and the soft-touch material on the dashboard doesn't feel particularly dense. There

are no options to personalise the interior either, so you get grey, or, er, grey. Picky points, but valid in the £60k plus SUV market.

The driving position is lofty and the front seats are exceptionally comfortable, with good side support to hold you in place. There's plenty of space, all round. In fact, no other electric SUV comes close to this amount of space. Third-row passengers benefit most from the EV9's heft, because even six-footers have plenty of head room. There's more than enough knee room too.

Second row passengers enjoy limo level leg room and a massively airy atmosphere. There's a pull-out drawer at floor level in front of the middle seat, plus two cupholders a little higher up. In fact, there are cupholders and cubbyholes everywhere. Storage is not a problem in an EV9.

You can fold down the second and third-row seatbacks electrically to create much more luggage space. In two-seat mode, the EV9 is essentially transformed into a mid-sized van.

The infotainment system is controlled using a 12.3in touchscreen, similar to the one in the Kia EV6 but with a slightly different layout. The screen could be sharper and faster, but it's easy to use and comes with Android

Pros

- Massive and comfortable
- Very well-equipped
- Rapid off the mark
- Good range
- Clever auto-parking

Cons

- Mediocre interior
- Six-seat option limited to top-spec trim
- Some rivals handle better
- Some wind/road noise

Verdict

The EV9 is a brilliant addition to the Kia range.

Kia EV9

It's a fairly unique, large EV, SUV that has enough range and performance to justify its price tag. There are faults. The safety bleeps are overly intrusive and distracting, while the range on the key fob means you practically have to let it run you over to auto park. We're not going to focus on that though. It's ruddy handsome, in an off-beat Korean kind of way, and a lot of people will love that.

On The Road

The EV9 is a 2.6 tonne SUV, with staggering get-up-and-go. Our test car developed 200bhp, enough to slingshot it to 60mph in 9.4 seconds. The twin-motor version weighs in at 380bhp and 5.3 seconds, while a future 700bhp GT version will almost certainly feel like making the jump to light speed in a star destroyer.

Once you're on the move, it's quiet and sure-footed, despite its heft. The electronic aids help to control the EV9's bulk well and, despite a very small amount of wallow through undulating bends, it's sure-footed.

Auto/Apple CarPlay smartphone mirroring.

The driver gets a 12.3in digital display, which is clear and positioned high enough to negate the need for a head-up display. There are also some physical switches for the most commonly used air-con controls. Useful.

There are a few drawbacks. The most obvious is that the steering wheel likes to get in the way, a lot. It obstructs your view of the instrument display, when set to its lowest position, the Start button is hidden on the gear selector and the air-con touchscreen is also partially covered.

It's quiet and well insulated on a run. It's a perfect motorway monster really. Adaptive cruise and steering assist make it a car that practically drives you to where you're going. It's effortless.

Around town, it takes a bit more effort to navigate because the EV9 is a big old bus. Measuring more than six feet wide, narrow gaps can be interesting and tight parking spaces a challenge. This is why the car can park for you and be summoned to 'crawl' out of a space with the key fob. Genius!

The tech is actually very clever, all round, with more driver aids than you can shake a stick at. Unfortunately, that does mean it fights you for control at times and bongs at everything. You can turn it off, just be prepared to spend a few minutes setting the car up through multiple settings every time you start up. It would be nice to deactivate everything with a single button.

Range is impressive, at 349 miles on a full charge for our RWD car. It came close in the real world too, just remember to reduce your expected range by about a third in the winter. That's for any EV.

We haven't tested the all-wheel-drive version yet, but it's unlikely that most drivers will be venturing too far off-road in the EV9. We'll let you know if that view changes.

Balfour Beatty HOMES

Ask about
HOME MOVER*
We'll help sell your
existing property,
no estate agents
fees to pay.

SUMMER, *made by us*

Welcome to an unbeatable summer.

Reserve your quality, brand new home now at Newton Meadows in the village of Colsterworth, surrounded by countryside close to Grantham and Stamford, and enjoy a magical summer. Especially with Home Mover, where we could help sell your current home and pay your estate agent fees.

Visitors are welcome to explore our show homes in Colsterworth, open Thursday to Monday 10am to 5pm. **Book a visit today.**



balfourbeattyhomes.com

Newton Meadows, Bourne Road,
Colsterworth, Grantham NG33 5JF

3, 4 & 5 bedroom homes
from £349,950

Call: 07763 212627

e: newtonmeadows@balfourbeattyhomes.com



Scan to find
out more

Computer generated image shows a typical street scene at Newton Meadows. Elevational treatments and handing may vary. *Home Mover available on selected plots. Terms and conditions apply.

QUEEN ETHELBURGA'S COLLEGIATE

Welcoming day students from
3 months to 19 years
and boarders
from Year 3



Next Open Morning: 9 March 2024

email admissions@qe.org to book a tour or call 01423 333333



NEW MEMBER OF YEAR: AS1 Sam Hinett



RAF VEST: AS1(T) Luke Selby-Grace



CHAIRMAN'S COMMENDATION: Cpl Arran Devine



CHAIRMAN'S COMMENDATION: Cpl Frankie Lyall



PRESIDENT'S COMMENDATION: Mr Eamon Geraghty



TEAM MANAGER'S AWARD: Sgt Cam Lewis



CHAIRMAN'S COMMENDATION: Sgt Michael Griffin



CHAIRMAN'S COMMENDATION: Sgt Sarah Grant

Boxing hits the mark

BOXING

Daniel Abrahams

SERVICE BOXING celebrated a thumping year of success at its Association Awards Dinner at RAF Leeming, handing out awards and welcoming new chair Gp Capt Paul Hamilton.

A 2023/24 season of highs was dubbed “arguably the

most successful season in the Association’s history,” by Development Officer and RAFBA stalwart Sqn Ldr Andy Parker.

From kicking off the season with a Coningsby-hosted show, followed by National Pre Quarter-Finals for AS1s Ben Waugh and Sam Hinett (New Member of the Year) after they achieved

Awards for stars of Association

gold at the UKAF development championships, the Service closed out the year with its most successful Lord Wakefields event in 20 years.

In March three RAF boxers were crowned UKAF Champions:

Sgt Cam Lewis (Team Manager’s award winner), AS1(T) Luke Selby-Grace (winner of the long service award) and for a second time, AS1 Blaine Lambert at the Army-hosted UKAF Elite Championships. While

Cpl Frankie Lyall (President’s Commendation winner) and fellow female Elite Boxer AS1 Carys Mainwaring reached a National Championships semi-final berth.

RAFBA legend Cpl Brad Axe turned professional and made his debut in Essex live on TV, while six RAF boxers played a vital role in helping the UK Armed Forces team win the Ed Bilbey Team Trophy.

Cpl Arran Devine (Boxer of the Year award winner) and Mainwaring achieved silver medals at the Haringey Cup marking the end of the season for most, while Service officials achieved several highs with Sgt Michael Griffin named Best Judge at the Ed Bilbey Box Cup, while Mr Paul Rosendale was selected as the England Boxing Official of the Year and RAFBA Vice-President Gp Capt Ray Morley was part of the officials team for the Paris Olympics.

Other awards presented included: **Framed RAF Vest** – AS1(T) Luke Selby-Grace; **Chairman’s Commendations**, Sgt Sarah Grant, Sgt Michael Griffin, Sgt Cam Lewis, Cpl Arran Devine, Cpl Frankie Lyall and AS1(T) Luke Selby-Grace; **President’s Commendation** – Mr Eamon Geraghty, Cpl Frankie Lyall; **President’s Cup** – FS John Kearns and **Team Manager’s Award** – Sgt Cam Lewis.

KARTING

LLANDOW KART circuit near Cardiff was the venue for the fifth round of Armed Forces Karting Championship action and there was plenty of Welsh fire on show.

On a track familiar to most participants, a field of more than 60 karts took full advantage of the warm conditions, producing some excellent racing.

In race one RAF Waddington’s kart 50 came home in fifth, behind the three dominant Royal Navy karts and the Top RLC kart, closely followed by RAF Wyton in sixth and another Waddington kart in seventh.

Race two went much the same as the opener, however this time RAF Brize Norton’s kart 73 took fifth behind the three Royal Navy kart, with RAF Cosford’s kart 14 in eighth.

In race three RAF Brize Norton came second, with RAF Waddington 50 in third.

Brize take a second but Navy reign



EYES ON PRIZE: Brize, kart 73

Would you like to see your sport featured in RAF News? Send a short report (max 300 words) and a couple of photos (attached hi-res jpegs) to: [Sports@rafnews.co.uk](mailto:sports@rafnews.co.uk)



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

GAMES

Service vies for Pole position at the Nato games

Daniel Abrahams

THE SERVICE'S tennis stars are looking to ace their Polish counterparts as they kickstart the 41st AIRCOM Inter-Nation Sports Championships starting in Poznan, Poland next month.

The prestigious six-discipline event – tennis (September 10-13), volleyball (October 29-November 1) cross-country, basketball, athletics and football – is held over a two-year cycle between the NATO air forces of the UK, Germany, Belgium, Poland, Holland and USAF.

Heading up the organisational charge for the RAF, Sqn Ldr Heather Ratnage-Black (*inset below*) returns to the role on the Inter-Nations Sports Boards, having been involved two years ago when the RAF hosted the cross-country at Halton.

She said: "The official line on the purpose of the games is that it is designed to 'improve and develop working relationships with NATO partners'. It does that and so much more.

"My involvement comes as part of my Sports Policy role within the Directorate of Sport, and it is a privilege to be involved.

"It is eye-opening to see how our counterparts work and to be able to work alongside them in the sporting arena.

"There are a lot of parallels with deployment, but



LEAGUE OF NATIONS: Athletes compete in the cross-country at Halton as part of the 2022 event

through the medium of sport. So, by competing alongside our allies, cultural differences are broken down and we learn more about how each operates, making us all more effective working together on deployments." Personnel share

the same accommodation during the four-day visit and travel together. There is also an opening ceremony. This year's events begin in Poland in September, before moving to Amsterdam for the volleyball in October, followed by cross-country in Belgium in November.

Ratnage-Black added: "The last time we faced the Polish, they had one of Poland's top

cross-country athletes and an Olympian competing, so what a fantastic opportunity to test yourself against the best. Then there is time to talk to them in the evening.

"When we think of defence engagement it is generally thought of in terms of high-level meetings, but this level of engagement is, in many ways, just as important."

CRICKET

T20 victory for Marham in stations competition



RAF MARHAM had their day in the sun to take the RAF Inter-Station T20 cricket final in style over Brize Norton, losing just one wicket on the way to glory.

The annual RAFCA tournament see teams from both the London Area Cricket League and East of England Cricket League participate.

Vine Lane, Uxbridge hosted the final as EECL side Marham faced tournament debutants LACL side Brize, who, having beaten last year's winners, a strong Northolt/High Wycombe side, comfortably in the semi-final were looking confident.

Having won the toss, Marham Captain AB Tyler Frost elected to field and following some excellent bowling Brize were reduced to a score of 96-9 after 20 overs, despite Flt Lt Courtney Stirling (Brize Captain) putting up a valiant stand. Ultimately, he could not usher the tail to a defensible total, with Marham comfortably reaching the total for the loss of just one wicket.

OIC station cricket at Marham, Flt Lt Matthew Harris, said: "Flt Lt Ben Goodlad kept things tight with a magnificent opening spell. The scoreboard pressure he created no doubt contributing to our success.

"A fantastic all-round bowling and fielding performance put us in a strong position, but there were still some nerves jangling at the lunch break.

"Our batters knew full well that they still had a job to do on a pitch that looked to be providing more assistance to the bowlers.

"The win was a fitting end to the playing career of Sgt Ryan Watson, who scooped the Player of the Match Award for his outstanding all-round performance of 37 not out with the bat and two for 14 with the ball."

Academy win for Cranwell

RAF OFFICER Training Academy's Inter-Collegiate Games 2024 win at Cranwell was dubbed 'phenomenal' by event OIC Flt Lt Sam Burgess.

He said: "The Games were an incredible success and enabled all three Services to mix at such a critical stage of their careers, something that they will be able to reflect on and will be invaluable for any future MOD integration.

"There were some phenomenal displays of teamwork and athleticism throughout the day,

which demonstrated the power of sport in phase 1 training."

The win for the RAF team came after losing last year's event to the Army (RMAS).

The Games saw more than 250 staff and students compete from Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, Britannia Royal Naval College and RAF Office Training Academy.

Competition included relay, football, tug of war, military circuits, volleyball and swimming before a Superstars-style event closed out the day.



Sport

SHOOTING

In with a good shot at next year's Inters



ON TARGET: RAF shooters at Bisley

TWO RUNNER-UP Inter-Service spots were a solid return for the ever-improving RAF marksmen at the 155th staging of The Imperial Target Rifle Meeting at Bisley.

With a heavy civilian field, the event attracts top shots from all three UK Armed Forces and the short range (500 and 600 yards) and long range (900 and 1,000 yards) categories double as this year's Inter-Services competition.

After an intense week of high-end shooting, the RAF came second in both IS events – losing out by just seven points in the long range and 17 in the short.

Small Arms Secretary Flt Lt (Ret'd) Conrad Steele-Benny said: "Over the last couple of years, the RAF Target Rifle Club has been on a real push to close the gap with the Army, and we are now in touching distance. We will be aiming for a clear victory at the 2025 meeting.

"The weather, camaraderie and level of shooting has been phenomenal this year and all end the week as better shooters than we were seven days ago, and some with some pretty impressive silverware."

The RAF top shot was Sgt Scott Glanville from DE&S in Bristol on 198.21 – dropping only two points.

The Service teams comprised 12 shooters, six of whom also took turns coaching and monitoring wind indications in the flags and making corresponding sight corrections on the shooter's rifle.

In the short range the Army won with 1,170 points, the RAF were on 1153 and the Royal Navy 783. At long range the Army scored 1,140, the RAF 1,133, and the RN 737.

Steele-Benny added: "The key to success is bringing in new members of any experience or background and conducting regular training weekends at Bisley. We are always looking for new shooters of any gender, age or experience.

"We will also be conducting overseas tours to South Africa, Australia, the USA, Caribbean, New Zealand and Kenya."

● **For details on the RAF Small Arms Association 2025 newcomer event, contact RAFSAA via the RAF Central Fund webpage: RAF Small Arms - RAF Central Fund (rafcf.org.uk) or email: smallarms.secretary@rafsport.org.uk**



WakeFest 24 ticks the Box for RAF riders

WAKEBOARDING

● **From back page**

The men's competition was dominated by Sgt Rich Phillips, who took both the boat and cable titles, with Ross scooping silver in the boat and bronze in the cable, while Emma took the ladies' boat title, and Flt Lt Carrie Sharp winning the cable category.

The festival included three of the RAF's six Team GB riders – the Phillips brothers and Flt Lt Aran McGuckin – all competing in the men's Elite category in a week of action on the water.

Following three days of training on boat and cable, battle commenced with the cable discipline for the men's intermediate and advanced riders.

After two rounds in each discipline, the men's competition was being bossed by Rich Phillips, who took both the boat



and cable titles, with no consideration for his twin brother Ross – riding in his last Championships before leaving the Service next month.

FS James Cook took the bronze medal in the boat, while McGuckin separated the twins by taking silver in the cable

competition.

The podium spoils in the ladies' competition were shared between four riders, Emma Phillips taking the boat title, followed by Flt Lt Francesca Kennard-Kettle and Flt Lt Carrie Sharp.

In the cable, Sharp took the title with a monster back-flip off the heel-side kicker, while Kennard-Kettle completed a brace of silver medals, with Cpl Natalie Fields claiming the bronze.

Next up for the RAF Wakeboarders and Waterski teams are the Inter-Service Championships at Box End Park next month.

As the defending champions in both disciplines, the Service will be gunning for a repeat of the successes of last year's teams.

● **Follow RAF Wakeboarding on Instagram @raf_waterski_and_wakeboarding**

RUGBY LEAGUE

Leeming win Clayton's in repeat of 2023's final

CHESS



OURS AGAIN: Cup presentation

Checkmate for the RAF

SERVICE CHESS is king again after retaining the prestigious Perrott Trophy for the fourth year running since the tournament was rekindled in 2021.

Doubling as the Inter-Services championship, the competition was played over three successive Tuesdays, with more than 20 players, both serving and veterans, representing the RAF.

There were relative beginners to former Armed Forces champions.

In an all-play-all format the RAF looked good throughout, winning 10.5-4.5 over RN, while the Army and MOD civilians drew 6-6.

Remaining unbeaten throughout, the RAF then took round two by one point, 9.5-8.5 over the Army, while MOD beat the Navy 7-4.

Setting up a close-fought clash with MOD in the final, the RAF came out 6-4 victors, while RN beat the Army 9-7.

The table ended with MOD on 1.5 tournament points in second to the RAF on three, while the Navy were third on one point and the Army fourth on half a point.

RAF Inter-Services Team Captain, Sqn Ldr (Ret'd) Steve O'Neill, said: "The final round battle with MOD was decided by our bottom five boards, as the MOD had taken an early 3.1 lead in the top boards. This shows that every team member's contribution was as vital as the next player's."

"Our final round against the MOD went right to the last game before the trophy was decided."

"I am also delighted to report that the RAF has been victorious in all four online events since then."

"I am immensely proud to have captained our team to victory for the last three years."

● To find out more about Armed Forces Chess, contact the AFCA Chairman, Flt Lt Ben Woolf, by emailing: Ben.Woolf222@mod.gov.uk



RAF Cosford	16
RAF Leeming	30

Daniel Abrahams

LEEMING HELD on to the Clayton's Cup at RAF Cosford after a repeat of last year's final saw the holders beat the host station 30-16.

They went into the match as favourites having a plethora of seasoned RAF Rugby League players in their midst, hoping to copy their route of the previous year.

Cosford, predominantly made up of Phase 2 students with an average age of 20, shocked Leeming with an early try to ease the nerves.

With AR Kyle Monteith and AR Harry Peacock controlling the game, they went in at half-time leading 16-12, with tries from AR Cameron Jones, Cpl Alex Robertson and Off Cdt James Jaundrell.

Leeming came out brightly in the second half and began to take advantage of their size and experience.



IT'S A WRAP: Cosford player's attack is snuffed out by Leeming, who celebrate their win, top left

PHOTOS: GORDY ELIAS

Cpl Tom White led from the front, dominating the Cosford pack, and Sgt Andrew Holland, AS1(T) William Mayle, AS1(T) Alex Ratchiffe, AS1(T) William Adam and Cpl James Crabb all touched down to secure victory for Leeming.

The Man of the Match award went the way of the winners, with

White taking it for the North Yorkshire station.

In the Plate final earlier in the day, RAF Marham faced off against 'RAF Oxfordshire', despite a late brace of tries, Marham showed their class late on to blast home 24-18.

A competitive game saw

Marham take an early lead with two quick tries finishing the half in the ascendancy 18-6.

There was a strong second-half comeback by Oxfordshire, but two late tries weren't enough.

The winners again took the Man of the Match award, through AR Jack Bartlett.

WEIGHTLIFTING

British Champs success for Cutler and Hibbs



PURE GOLD: Cpl Mike Cutler on his way to his second British Masters title this year

RAF LIFTERS shone as part of the UKAF team at the prestigious British Weightlifting Championships at the NEC in Birmingham, taking gold and silver medal finishes.

They formed part of a 12-person Forces team, with AS1 Josh Hibbs second in the 73kg category, while Cpl Michael Cutler won at 96kg.

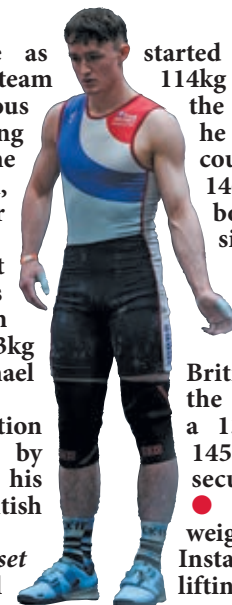
The opening day's action saw Hibbs, coached by Sgt Lee Coonan, make his debut bow at the British Championships.

The Scottish U23 (inset international

started strongly with a 114kg snatch, but it was in the clean and jerk that he showed what he could really do with a 146kg lift - double his bodyweight - to secure silver.

Cutler followed on day two in the 96kg category, gunning for his second British Masters gold of the year. He produced a 130kg snatch and a 145kg clean and jerk to secure it.

● Follow RAF weightlifting on Instagram @raf_weightlifting



5

pages of the best of **RAF Sports** action



Clayton's Cup win again for Leeming

See page 27

It's Rich pickings for the Phillips family



WATER BOYS: Ross Phillips, left, next to twin brother Rich, who is also shown performing an air trick during the event at Box End Park, main photograph

WAKEBOARDING



BOAT CHAMP: Emma Phillips, centre

RAF WAKEFEST 24 was a family affair as brothers Sgts Rich and Ross Phillips and Ross's wife Sqn Ldr Emma Phillips conquered all-comers at Box End Park in Bedford.

Riders from European and UK bases lined up on the dock for the RAF Wakeboard Boat and Cable Championships.

● Continued on page 26

HOCKEY

More Olympics heartache for Sanford

HISTORY AND heartache repeated as AS1 Liam Sanford and GB Hockey exited the Paris Games 4-2 to India at the quarter-final stage, a repeat of the 2020 Tokyo Games.

Speaking to *RAF News* after the clash, a disappointed Sanford, said: "It was an amazing experience to be playing in front of a huge crowd

and was even more special to have my family and partner out there supporting me.

"Obviously, not the result we wanted and it will take some time for me to decompress and move on from."

GB had qualified for the knockout rounds in the top four of Group B, before losing 2-1 to group winners Germany, being denied a battling draw by a fantastic late save, before facing India.

Looking for revenge GB were level at the break and a man up after Amit Rohidas was sent off early in the second quarter.

Sanford was then front and centre of the action, heavily involved in the equaliser for 2-2.

Having taken the game to a shootout, GB could not find a way past the world's best hockey keeper, P.R. Sreejesh, losing 4-2.

● Follow GB Hockey on X @GBHockey.



PARIS 2024



GB STAR: AS1 Liam Sanford at Paris Olympics

Photograph courtesy of GB Hockey and AS1 Liam Sanford

ISSN 0035-8614



9 770035 861051

R'n'R



Win summer film hit on Blu-ray ● p8

Back to Narnia – CS Lewis classic on tour

● See page 3

Announcements:
p6-7
Puzzles: p8

BREW+
BAKE!



IT'S TIME TO BREW AND BAKE FOR VETERANS' MENTAL HEALTH.

We all know it's good to talk. Host a Brew and Bake coffee morning or bake sale on station, at home, or in your community and make a life-changing difference to a veteran whilst having a brew, some banter and a slice of cake.



Simply sign up online for your free fundraising pack. Raise funds by asking for donations in return for a delicious brew and some baked goodies.

**COMBAT
STRESS**
FOR VETERANS' MENTAL HEALTH



Film

Hollywoodgate (12A)
In cinemas now

The Taliban let loose in 'Hollywood' in this dark documentary



HOLLYWOOD GATE BASE: New playground of the Taliban, below

DAYS AFTER the United States withdrew from Afghanistan in 2021, Egyptian filmmaker Ibrahim Nash'at immersed himself in their deserted military base in Kabul and its new inhabitants – the Taliban air force regiment.

Taking its name from the compound in which most of this documentary is shot, the Taliban forces first appear like kids who have been left home alone, playing dress-up in US military gear and shooting their guns at the surrounding mountains, propping open the automatic gates to this former CIA stronghold in case they get locked out.

Following the new head of Afghanistan's

air force, Mawlawi Mansour, we watch as they excitedly poke around the gym equipment, talking about how they will train their army here. They rustle through crates of expired medical supplies that could have massively helped the ailing population, and delight in the array of abandoned and sabotaged aircraft that they are determined to fix up. Multiple Black Hawk helicopters, B-35 bombers and fighter jets are found partly dismantled, the base filled with more than \$7 billion in American weaponry.

Lacking rudimentary education, the promises of restoring the base and aircraft appear like self-deluding wishes and puffed-up propaganda, but the reality of

their competence is shocking. There is a feeling that maybe these officials aren't being serious or aren't to be taken seriously – but this will change.

Mansour doesn't appear too menacing, but then he knows there is a camera on him. Moments of darkness are heard in his values, while the camera is instructed to be turned off at other times. Even though director Nash'at has been granted access, there is an unbelievably palpable tension and unease throughout. Many moments are captured in which veiled threats are made to him. At one point, someone warns that 'the little devil' is filming, but is reassured with: 'if his intentions are bad, he will die soon.'



A fly on the wall in a house of spiders, Hollywoodgate is equally fascinating and frightening.

Review by Sam Cooney

Four out of five rounds



Theatre

The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe
UK tour

75 years of Narnia

THE POPULAR production of CS Lewis's *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* will embark on a major new tour of the UK and Ireland after its recent West End run, opening at Leeds Playhouse later this year.

CS Lewis's book was first published in October 1950. Since then, more than 85 million copies in 60 languages have been sold. It is one of the top 10 best-selling books of all time. The stage adaptation enjoyed a successful, critically-acclaimed London run in 2022-3.

Step through the wardrobe into the enchanted kingdom of Narnia. Join Lucy, Edmund, Susan and Peter as they wave goodbye to wartime Britain and embark on the most magical of adventures in a frozen, faraway land where they meet Mr Tumnus the faun, talking beavers, Aslan (the noble king of Narnia) and the coldest, most evil White Witch.

The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe will play in Leeds



CRITICAL ACCLAIM: London show

through Christmas 2024, and in 2025 is scheduled to visit venues including Leicester Curve, Cardiff Millennium Centre, Liverpool Empire, Theatre Royal Newcastle, Theatre Royal Brighton, Orchard Theatre Dartford, New Victoria Theatre Woking, Princess Theatre Torquay, Wycombe Swan Theatre, Milton Keynes Theatre and Aylesbury's Waterside Theatre. Further venues and dates to be confirmed.

Go to: lionwitchonstage.com for further details.



DVDs

Before Dawn (15)

On Blu-ray, DVD and digital, Sept 2. Kaleidoscope Entertainment



WWI ANZAC heroics

INSPIRED BY real life war diaries, the film *Before Dawn* is a powerful retelling of one of Australia's biggest military victories during World War I. It tells the story of Jim Collins, a young man from the outback who leaves his family-run sheep station to join the soldiers on the Western Front, with hopes of making a difference.

However, it's not long before the realities of the muddy, ruthless and entirely unforgiving war take their toll on him. As the men in the battalion are whittled away and hope becomes a distant memory, a final chance at redemption arises amid one of Australia's greatest battles. Jim must risk death, or forever carry the burden of leaving yet another man behind.

The film's writer and director, Jordan Prince-Wright, explained: "The authenticity was something, all the way along, we were keeping a close eye on. That was everything from the props being authentic, some of which were used in WWI,



MUDDY HELL: Western Front

right through to uniforms. We had more than 300 extras from all over Australia; people were flying in to be on set."

Filming on location in the unforgiving elements brought even more authenticity. Actor Myles Pollard explained: "It's been hard, it's been gruelling. There's mud up to your knees and there was one night we were actually crawling through mud for hours on end. It certainly gives you respect for those who have done it for real."

WE HAVE copies of the film on DVD up for grabs. For your chance to win one, tell us:

Who directed *Before Dawn*?

Email your answer, marked **Before Dawn** DVD, to: tracey.allen@rafnews.co.uk or post it to: **RAF News, Room 68, Lancaster Building, HQ Air Command, High Wycombe, HP14 4UE, to arrive by September 20.**



R'n'R



Music
Nelly Furtado
New album, 7

Furtado finds her voice again



PHOTO:
Sammy Rawal

GRAMMY AWARD-winning singer-songwriter Nelly Furtado has announced her new studio album, 7, will be released on September 20.

Her most personal collection to date, she says 7 is the culmination of four years of artistic rediscovery after focusing her energy on motherhood.

"I started going out again and I kept hearing my music being played and remixed by DJs, and at the same time, my eldest daughter was showing me how the online community – including a whole new audience of Gen Z fans – were discovering and embracing my music, 20 years later," she said. "I heard the calling!"

A prolific songwriter and collaborator,

Furtado wrote 400 songs and collaborated with artists, songwriters, musicians and producers from around the world over those four years.

"I found my voice again," she said. "I came to the studio lost and searching for my artistic identity. I had done a lot of reflection and self-work during my seven years outside of music so I was bringing that growth into the studio with me."

She added: "This collection of songs is so personal. It reflects my journey through heartbreak and finding my confidence as an artist again, into the pure joy and celebration you feel when you're nurturing your passion and are part of a community."

● Go to: nellyfurtado.com for more details.



Comedy
Ben Elton
Authentic Stupidity

'My comedy of our hum

BEN ELTON'S always had a lot to say. You don't write countless sitcoms (including *Upstart Crow*, *The Thin Blue Line*, *The Young Ones* and *Blackadder*), pen 16 novels, four West End plays and four musicals (including Queen's *We Will Rock You*) if you're not an ideas guy.

It's fresh ideas which have always driven his ground-breaking comedy routines – and plenty are explored in his new stand-up tour – his first since 2019. The show's called *Authentic Stupidity*, and it's all about the ridiculous things humans do and think.

"The tour title is a little joke about how we're all saying that Artificial Intelligence is this great threat to humanity, which of course it is, but I reckon the biggest threat is actually Authentic Stupidity! Never mind AI, let's start by worrying about AS! But really all my tours could have been called Authentic Stupidity, because they're always comic explorations of the essential absurdity of existence. I think all good comedy is," explained Elton.

"I've always done that in my routines. Sharing my own fears and joys and exasperations. Just being as funny as I can about the stuff that's on my mind."

The tour opens at Horsham's Capitol Theatre on August 23 and culminates in London's West End on November 18.

"Every part of my comedy is an exploration of human inadequacy," he said, using *Blackadder* as one of his earliest examples. "Blackadder thinks he's so clever but his vanity, his jealousy and his ambition screw him every time. We need to accept that we are not everything and that we don't know everything. If we did that I think we'd do less harm to ourselves and to the planet. The world would probably be a lot nicer and safer if we all embraced our inner Baldrick!"

That's not to say this is all misanthropy, though. "In some ways, the world is better now. I think younger people have started to accept that weakness is OK; that weakness is merely an acknowledgement that you might need help, that you aren't necessarily the thing you want to be or



that people expect you to do things that we used to be able to do out more."

There are, of course, many aspects of modern life that have improved, in his opinion. "I'm insisting he's not a Luddite, but aware of where technology is going wrong."

"And now we've invented AI, how stupid is that? If a machine on television and said, 'I'm a machine with a machine that will replace human beings reduced to a state in MI5! We'd think this is an existential threat to humanity. But because of the tech bros and billionaires, we're all just going, 'Oh, it's going to be able to write songs.'"

Elton doesn't think of himself as being a great comic performer. "It's all about his writing."

"I think I can be a great comic without the material. I'm a clown who can get a laugh out of a face."

Those accustomed to Elton's (relatively) polite and sophisticated blanche at the often-bruited Comedy Store in London – along with the

...y's an exploration ...man inadequacy'



Mayall, Adrian Edmondson, French and Saunders and Jo Brand – cut his teeth.

“Back then it was two shows a night, the early one at 10pm, then one at midnight, in a strip club in Soho. It was 1981, Brixton was in flames, Thatcher was starting her 10-year war on society and sometimes audiences were tense and angry,” he explained.

“People weren’t tuned into what we now call alternative comedy, which I would describe as the comedy of ideas, where you use your own principles and beliefs to form your own comedy. That’s certainly what I did. People were used to comedians who told jokes and part of the joke might be about dealing with hecklers, so there was this idea that that was what a comic did – they dealt with hecklers. I hate hecklers. I’ve never heard a witty heckle. They’re mythical.

“I developed what was probably an overly combative style just to shut the idiots down,” said Elton.

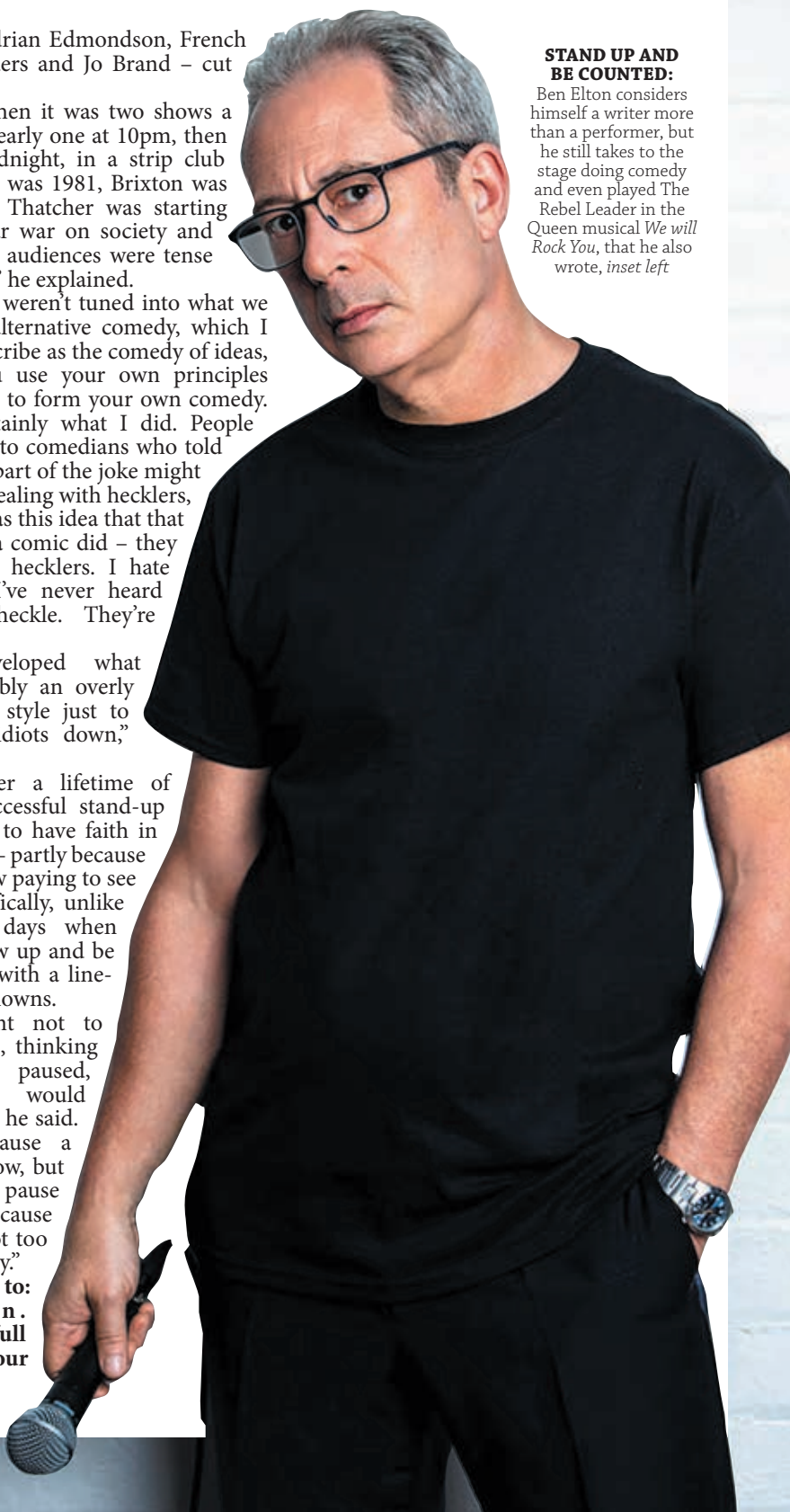
But over a lifetime of hugely successful stand-up he’s learnt to have faith in audiences – partly because they’re now paying to see him specifically, unlike in those days when they’d show up and be presented with a line-up of unknowns.

“I learnt not to trust them, thinking that, if I paused, someone would shout out,” he said. “I can pause a little bit now, but I still don’t pause much because I’ve just got too much to say.”

● **Go to: Ben Elton. live for a full list of tour dates.**

STAND UP AND BE COUNTED:

Ben Elton considers himself a writer more than a performer, but he still takes to the stage doing comedy and even played The Rebel Leader in the Queen musical *We will Rock You*, that he also wrote, inset left



Books

Hercules

amberley-books.com

Win!

WWII's workhorse engine

WHAT LINKS the Bristol Aeroplane Company, Armstrong Whitworth, AVRO, Short Brothers PLC, Handley Page Ltd and Vickers Aviation? The Hercules engine, designed by Sir Roy Fedden and produced from 1939 by the BAC.

In his new book *Hercules* (amberley-books.com) author Gordon A. A. Wilson takes the reader through the story of aero-engineer Fedden who developed the Bristol Hercules, the company that backed him, Bristol Aeroplane Company, and gives a layman's description of the engine, its contribution to the Allied victory in World War II and its continued contribution to the post-war success of civil and military aviation.

The Hercules engine powered Bristol's own Beaufighter but was more commonly used on bombers. The variants powered the Avro Lancaster B.II, the Handley Page Halifax, the Short Stirling, the Vickers Wellesley

and the Vickers Wellington, among others.

The sleeve valve engine was an efficient configuration that allowed the use of lower octane fuels for the same compression ratio. It was clever, and it worked.

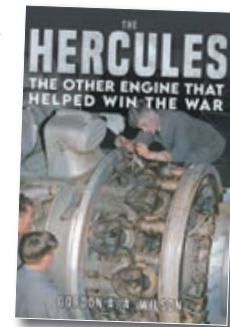
Wilson delivers a biography of his ingenious workhorse, designed and modified under the pressure of wartime. He has had exclusive access to the restoration of a Handley Page Halifax, which has provided picture details unavailable elsewhere.

You could win a copy of the book (rrp £22.99). To be in with a chance of winning one, answer this question

correctly:

Who designed the Hercules engine?

Email your answer, marked Hercules book competition, to: tracey.allen@rafnews.co.uk or post it to: RAF News, Room 68, Lancaster Building, HQ Air Command, High Wycombe, HP14 4UE, to arrive by September 20. Please remember to include your full postal address.



Theatre

Rocky Horror Show

UK tour

A Rocky start for Caton

COMEDIAN NATHAN Caton has joined the cast as the Narrator in Richard O'Brien's *Rocky Horror Show*, now on tour.

Gigging since the age of 19, Nathan (pictured) has spent the last decade establishing himself as a headliner on the comedy circuit, bringing his blend of personal and political comedy to audiences up and down the country.

He has featured on *Live at the Apollo* (BBC One), *Mock the Week* (BBC Two), *Russell Howard's Good News* (BBC Two) and was a finalist on *FHM's Stand-Up-Hero* (ITV 4).

He said: “I am incredibly excited to be part of this production. *The Rocky Horror Show* is a legendary piece of theatre and I look forward to bringing my own spin to the Narrator. It's going to be a wild, fun and unforgettable ride.”

The cast is led by Jason Donovan and also features Stephen Webb, reprising the role of Frank'nFurter – having played it both on tour and in the West End to critical acclaim – at select



performances and venues in 2024. Adam Strong (*We Will Rock You/Disney's Aladdin*) will be making his *Rocky* debut, playing Frank from February 2025.

The show tells the story of Brad and his fiancée Janet, two squeaky clean college kids who meet Dr Frank'nFurter by chance when their car breaks down outside his house while on their way to visit their favourite college professor. It's an adventure they'll never forget, with fun, frolics, frocks and frivolity, bursting with timeless songs and outrageous outfits.

● **Go to: RockyHorror.co.uk for more information.**



Your Announcements

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

Death

MOORE Michael (Chf Tech). Died suddenly on the Eden Golf Course, St Andrews on June 5, 2024.

Aged 69, he was a much loved husband to Caroline, father to Neil and Michelle and great-grandfather to Amelia and Hamish.

Mick entered RAF Halton as an apprentice Air Frame Technician in 1970 and finished his 30 years service at RAF Leuchars.



Chf Tech Michael Moore

Seeking

MY father-in-law, Cecil Goodier, was a flight engineer serving with 61 Sqn Bomber Command in 1944/45. Cecil's pilot was Ray Lushey, who sadly passed away a few years ago. The crew's usual aircraft was Lancaster III-QR-E, serial number RF160. The crew flew over 30 sorties in this aircraft.

I am seeking to make contact with any relatives of this crew, who may have photographs or interesting information.

Other crew member names were: Harry Parsons, W/op; Len Brewin, Bomb aimer; John Brewster, Navigator; Robert Humphries, Air gunner; Bill Fox, Rear gunner. Cecil was attached to 1654 Heavy Conversion Unit earlier in 1944, flying Stirlings. Any information at all on this unit would be gratefully received, especially photos. I am keen to establish the serial numbers of

Stirlings in service with this unit during January to August 1944 and in which Cecil may have flown.

Please email: mikeyb03@gmail.com, or phone: 07593 034028

Reunions

28TH entry RAF Cosford, June 1956 to November 1957. Trade Group 19. How many of us left? Contact: David Slough. d.slough@outlook.com

THE RAF Masirah and RAF Salalah Veterans Association Reunion Gala Dinner is to be held on Saturday, October 12 at the Hatton Court Hotel, Upton St Leonards, Gloucester GL4 8DE. All members are welcome to attend. If you are interested in attending the Dinner, please contact Alan Teasdale on: joalteas@btinternet.com. If you would like to join the Association as a member, please visit our website: www.omanrafveterans.org for further information.

ANNUAL Reunion: The Association of RAF Women Officers Annual (ARAFWO) Reunion Lunch will take place on Saturday, October 12 at the RAF Club, Piccadilly, from 11am. Our speaker will be Dorit Oliver-Wolff. Dorit survived the Holocaust, is an accomplished public speaker and is dedicated to educating others about the consequences of the Holocaust. For tickets to attend this inspiring reunion, please contact Fiona Morgan Frise by email: ffrise713@gmail.com. For further information about ARAFWO, please visit arafwo.co.uk.

124 Entry Apprentices - RAF Cosford, 1974-77. 50th anniversary reunion. Members will be meeting at The Limes Country Lodge Hotel, Earlswood, Solihull on Saturday, October 12 with an informal buffet luncheon to follow on in the evening of Sunday, October 13. For further information please email:

nigelcooper1@live.co.uk or call/WhatsApp on: 07986 200137.

We have currently managed to locate and contact more than 30 of our 49 original members so a great time is assured.

CALLING all former TG11 T/phonist, TPOs, Tels, Wop Spec, TCO, TCC, TRC, all are welcome to attend the TG11 Association reunion to be held Friday, March 21 to Sunday March 23, 2025, at the Marriot Delta Hotels Nottingham Belfry, Mellors Way, off Woodhouse Way, Nottingham NG8 6PY. See website: tg11association.com.

Associations

WHAT do you know about the 2 Halifax RAF Sqns 346 and 347 which flew from RAF Elvington near York in World War II? Why not join the Sud-Ouest France Branch of RAFA to find out more? You will be welcomed with open arms or an Accueil Chaleureux! For further details contact Terry Dennett at Admin@Rafsudouest.fr or call: 0033546953889.

RAF Armourers past and present: RAF Association's Armourers Branch aims to provide welfare support and comradeship for all who have served or currently serve as an RAF Armourer. See: rafaarmourers.co.uk or contact the committee via email: plumbersrest@outlook.com.

30 Sqn RAF Association. Visit the Sqn October 5. Contact Phil Jones at: 30sqnassnsec@gmail.com. Reunion and Dinner April 25-26, 2025. Contact Tony Main at: 30sqnassnchair@gmail.com. All previous Sqn members welcome.

RAF Wainfleet

LOOKING for photos/memorabilia/stories from RAF Wainfleet. The current owner of the tower would love you to get in touch. Please contact: willroughton@hotmail.com.

Charity helps paralysed vet enjoy the outdoors

A SERIOUS road collision just weeks after leaving the RAF, aged 24, left Donald Ferguson paralysed from the neck down.

After the devastating accident he had to adjust to life as a wheelchair user, as well as relearning how to speak.

Support he received from the RAF Benevolent Fund has helped him regain his independence and feel less isolated at home.

Joining the RAF at 17, Donald, now 61, from Keith in Scotland, was an APP2 Air Photography Processor, processing films from gun cameras on aircraft such as Buccaneers; these films would be used to tell if a target had been reached.

As he had supported the RAFBF throughout his Service, when an ex-Army friend mentioned the help that he might be eligible for, Donald decided to contact the charity.

The Fund's Welfare Case Workers in Scotland saw the difficulty he had getting outdoors with his dog in his wheelchair and the isolation of living in a rural location - all of which contributed to Donald's low moods.

The RAFBF provided him with a new powered wheelchair and a shed to house it in.

He said: "The powered wheelchair from the Fund has meant everything to me. It means I can go off-road for walks with my beloved Labrador Kierra, and the chair can go across any terrain.

"It's made a huge difference to my life; without it I'd be stuck indoors."

He added: "The help from the Fund has been fabulous, I can't thank the welfare team enough - they're worth their weight in gold."



FUND FAN: Veteran Donald Ferguson with his dog Kierra

Landmark anniversary

THE WRAF Branch of RAFA, a virtual branch of the Royal Air Forces Association, has commemorated and celebrated the 75th anniversary of the re-introduction of the WRAF into service in 1949.

A weekend of events took place in London and included a tour of the Tower of London, a dedicated church service at the Central Church of the RAF, St Clement Danes in the Strand and a celebration lunch at the RAF Club.

The weekend concluded with the laying of a wreath at the Bomber Command Memorial in Green Park by branch president Gp Capt Anne-Marie Houghton.

She said: "The opportunity to reconnect with people who understand what it is to serve,

particularly those who were members of the WRAF, is extremely important.

"The shared camaraderie, support and genuine care for each other, alongside continuing to be part of something bigger than yourself gives all members of the branch that sense of belonging."

The final part of WRAF75 Commemorations and Celebrations took place last month at All Saints Church in Down Ampney.

Representatives with the Standards from several branches of RAFA, the WAAF/WRAF/RAF(W) Association and the Parachute Regiment were in attendance and many people with connections to the WRAF, WAAF and RAF travelled to be there, said a spokeswoman.

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

Historic Duxford comes to life

VISITORS WILL be transported back in time to the summer of 1940 as historic Duxford comes to life once more for this year's Battle of Britain Air Show, taking place on Saturday 14 and Sunday, September 15.

Highlights of this year's show include the RAF F-35 Roll Demo Lightning, making its Duxford debut on the Saturday, the RAF Falcons Display Team, and the signature Spitfire and Hurricane finale flypast to commemorate the 'Few' who defended Britain in the skies during World War II.

The air show, for families and enthusiasts alike, will feature historic aircraft displays, including the Bristol Blenheim, B-17 'Sally B' and the much-loved flypast of more than 12 Spitfires and four Hurricanes.

This year will also see modern combat aircraft take to the skies – the thundering RAF F-35 Lightning and Typhoon FGR4.

Taking place at an airfield which saw action during the Battle of Britain itself, the Air Show offers a full immersion into the 1940s, with vintage-inspired experiences around every corner.



SUMMER OF 1940: Members of Spirit of Britain living history group pose alongside IWM's Mk. I Spitfire N3200 at a previous IWM Duxford Air Show © IWM

Living history groups, live music, swing dance workshops and vintage hairstyling will transport guests back to the era and visitors are encouraged to dress to impress in 40s fashion.

New highlights on the ground include the car owned by Flying Ace Douglas Bader, a renovated 1937 MG TA.

IWM Air Show event manager Phil Hood said: "September may spell the end of summer, but we always look forward to this month when we can welcome visitors to our Battle of Britain Air Show, one of the highlight events of the Duxford calendar." ● Go to: iwm.org.uk for booking details.



TOP LOCATION:
Halton House

Halton House open to public

THERE'S A rare opportunity next month to see the ground-floor rooms of Halton House, RAF Halton's Officers' Mess, as part of the free national Heritage Open Days festival.

Built by Alfred de Rothschild in 1883 as his country residence, it has been used extensively as a location for films and TV programmes including *The King's Speech*, *The Queen*, *The World is not Enough*, *The Nutcracker* and *the Four Realms*, *The Crown*, *Downton Abbey* and *Bridgerton*.

Also open on September 10

will be the Trenchard Museum, which tells the history of the RAF station from before World War I, including 70 years of the RAF Apprentice Scheme, and the James McCudden Flight Heritage Centre.

Extensive parking is available only at Halton House. Please note: Halton House has very limited disabled access. Light refreshments and souvenirs will be on sale.

● Go to: heritageopendays.org.uk for more details.

ROYAL AIR FORCE

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

The official voice of the Royal Air Force

R'n'R



Prize Crossword No. 368

Solve the crossword, then rearrange the 11 letters in yellow squares to find an RAF station

Across

- 6. Looked after chap, old timer (7)
- 7. Covering Dad and I at National Trust (5)
- 9. **And 3 Down.** Lack base, disrupted on eastern flank of NATO (5,3)
- 10. Weapons system used by loyalist? (7)
- 12. **See 18 Across**
- 14. Capital with pleasant RAF station nearby (4,7)
- 18. **And 12 Across.** Drive a nosy mandarin around Red Arrows celebration (7,11)
- 19. Some Whig looking for chilly accommodation (5)
- 21. Doctor taking drugs on RAF aircraft (5)
- 22. I am returning what vampires fear is an error (7)

Down

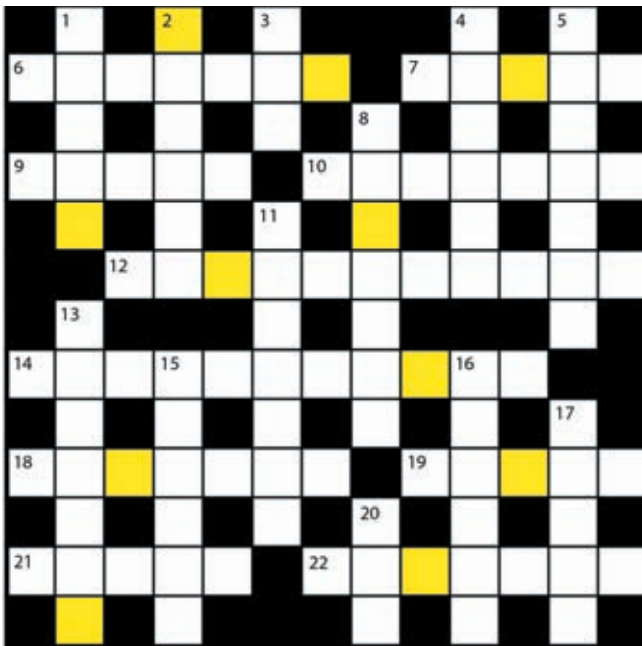
- 1. Taxi for the French guy (5)
- 2. No calf attacked by predator (6)
- 3. **See 9 Across**
- 4. Out East assaults RAF legend (6)
- 5. Flying first over Norway, bypassing Oslo, and reaching Denmark (2,5)
- 8. Parade messenger worker (7)
- 11. Crosby consumes mixed lot of South African meat (7)
- 13. Outside Harringay, Willow goes in for socks (7)
- 15. Recording it comes back before 'Dynasty' (6)
- 16. Highness – once first becomes last – reveals Henry's position (6)
- 17. Tornado has been, by the sound of it (5)
- 20. Charles III's never-ending family (3)

Name:

Address:

RAF word: Crossword No. 368

The winners of our Prize Crossword and Prize Su Doku puzzles will receive a recent top aviation title – please send your entries to the address printed in the adjacent Su Doku panel, to arrive by September 20, 2024. Prize Crossword No. 366 winner is: Andrew Bunting, RAF Boulmer.



Solution to Crossword No. 367

Across – 1. Tart 8. Warsaw Pact 9. Dive-bomb 10. Ruby 12. Bought 14. Biloxi 15. Septic 17. Hiding 18. Snag 19. Akrotiri 21. Flying Boat 22. Ergo
Down – 2. Antipodean 3. Twee 4. Dry Out 5. Baobab 6. Sparkled 7. Stay 11. Boxing Ring 13. Get A Grip 16. Change 17. Harrow 18. Safe 20. Tote
RAF term: Security

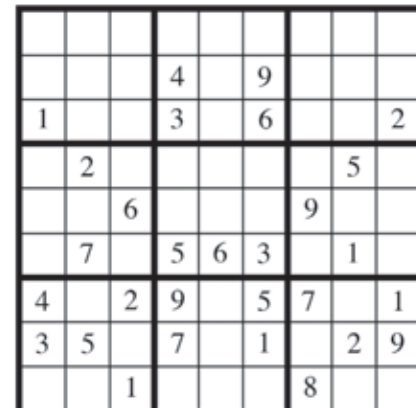


Prize Su Doku No. 378

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 September 6, 2024.

The winner of Su Doku No: 376 is: Malcolm High, Southampton.



Solution to Su Doku No. 377

7	3	5	1	2	9	6	8	4
4	6	1	3	5	8	7	9	2
8	2	9	7	4	6	5	1	3
1	4	8	2	3	5	9	6	7
6	9	2	8	1	7	4	3	5
5	7	3	9	6	4	1	2	8
3	1	4	5	9	2	8	7	6
2	5	7	6	8	1	3	4	9
9	8	6	4	7	3	2	5	1



DVDs Sasquatch Sunset (15)

On Blu-ray & digital from August 26: Icon Film Distribution



A Big Foot in the door for Eisenberg

SCORING RAVE reviews following its world premiere at the 2024 Sundance Film Festival, *Sasquatch Sunset* has become one of the most talked about films of the summer.

Described as bold, daring and unique, the film stars Riley Keough (*Mad Max: Fury Road*, *American Honey*) and Academy Award nominee Jesse Eisenberg (*Zombieland*, *The Social Network*). It's directed by David and Nathan Zellner (*Kumiko, the Treasure Hunter*).

Beginning in the misty forests of North America, a family of Sasquatches – possibly the last of their enigmatic kind – will embark on an absurdist, epic, hilarious and ultimately poignant journey.

Over the course of a year these shaggy and noble giants fight for survival as they find themselves on a collision course with the ever-changing world around them.

We have copies of the film, hailed as 'the greatest Bigfoot story ever told', up for grabs on



Blu-ray, which include three hours of UK exclusive bonus features.

For your chance to win a copy, tell us the answer to this question:

Which Academy Award nominee stars in Sasquatch Sunset?

Email your answer, marked Sasquatch Sunset Blu-ray competition, to: tracey.allen@rafnews.co.uk or post it to: RAF News, Room 68, Lancaster Building, HQ Air Command, High Wycombe, HP14 4UE to arrive by September 20. Please include your full postal address.



Health

Dr Rangan Chatterjee
UK tour

Dr's in the house



BESTSELLING AUTHOR and critically acclaimed podcast host Dr Rangan Chatterjee has announced he will embark on his first UK tour in March 2025.

The Thrive Tour: Be The Architect Of Your Health And Happiness, starts on March 1 in Nottingham and will then travel to 15 other cities in the UK, before culminating at Newcastle's City Hall on March 30.

Known for his ability to simplify complex ideas into actionable tips that busy people can implement into their daily lives, Dr Chatterjee's show aims to leave audiences with insights that they can use immediately to improve the quality of their health and day-to-day life.