



# Sky High

60 years

The newsletter of 2187 (Canvey Island) Squadron ATC  
Issue 2 - January 2008

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## From the Editor



Happy new year to you all and welcome to the second edition of the squadron newsletter. I would like to extend my thanks to you all for your support and nice words regarding the first edition - hopefully we will continue to provide all you want to know about what's happening with 2187 (Canvey Island) squadron ATC!

As mentioned in the last edition we want to spread the word about what we do and what you can get out of being a cadet therefore if you know of anyone that would like to receive a copy of this newsletter, please let us know.

Read on - and enjoy!

Hazel Weston,  
Editor and Secretary to Civilian welfare Committee

## What's Been Happening?

- ⊙ Sgt Bradford & Mr Parsons qualified as Range Conducting Officers (RCOs) after attending two weekend training courses at RAF Cosford and can now take cadets to shoot both .22 and L98 weapons
- ⊙ Sgt Evans gained his Squadron Marksman badge
- ⊙ Cdt Robson, Mizon and Swan represented Essex Wing in the Regional Hockey competition
- ⊙ Cdt Robson & Mizon represented London & SE Region in Hockey, and Cdt Swan was reserve
- ⊙ Sgt McNish went to Germany camp at Rheindahlen Garrison
- ⊙ Cadets raised £800 in aid of the ATC National Bag Packing Day, to raise funds for the new ATC Regional Activity Centres
- ⊙ £560 was raised for the Poppy Appeal
- ⊙ 9 cadets went AEF flying at RAF Wyton in November
- ⊙ Only two cadets managed to go gliding in December, due to the poor weather!
- ⊙ Ex- CWO Matt Johnson is now an Officer Cadet with his university Officer Training Corps (OTC) and ex-CWO Jack Watson is an Officer Cadet with his Bristol University Air Squadron (UAS)

## New Civilian Instructor Joins the Squadron!

Welcome to Miss Kerry Maltby who has joined the squadron as a female Civilian Instructor. She is an ex-cadet NCO of 2187 Squadron, and her Dad used to be the Commanding Officer many years ago.





## Competition Time!

In the last edition we asked if you could come up with a better name for the newsletter?

Many thanks for all your suggestions however after careful consideration Flt Lt Weston decided that the prize should go to Charlie Carlton for his suggestion of Sky High.

Congratulations!!!

## What's Going On?

Event/Activity	Who can attend?	How much does it cost?
Inter Wing Junior Rugby & Netball 10 <sup>th</sup> February 2008	Cadets	NA
Weekend Exercise @ Carver Barracks 23 <sup>rd</sup> - 24 <sup>th</sup> February 2008	Cadets	TBC
Grob Tutor flying @ RAF Wyton 16 <sup>th</sup> March 2008	Cadets	NA
Wing 5-a-side Football 16 <sup>th</sup> March 2008	Cadets	NA
60 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Ball and Reunion, Oysterfleet 22 <sup>nd</sup> March 2008	Everyone	£15 per ticket
RAF Cosford March 26 <sup>th</sup> -27 <sup>th</sup> April 2008	Cadets	TBC
Falklands Competition 26 <sup>th</sup> - 27 <sup>th</sup> April 2008	Cadets	NA
Mess Night and Awards Evening Oysterfleet, 3 <sup>rd</sup> October 2008	Everyone	TBC



## 9 Cadets have November Flights at RAF Wyton

Air Cadets regularly have the opportunity to fly with Royal Air Force pilots in Grob Tutor aircraft. Flying takes place at one of the 13 Air Experience Flights (AEFs) located around the UK and Cadets from 2187 Squadron fly at No.5 AEF at RAF Wyton, which is near St Ives in Cambridgeshire.

The cadets are first given a briefing of what to expect by one of the RAF pilots, with the aid of a short video. Then when it is their turn to fly, they are taken to be kitted out in flying clothing, and then guided out to the aircraft by one of the groundcrew or flight staff! The pilot then takes off, and shows them how the aircraft flies. They are also given the chance to control the aeroplane, experience aerobatics or simply admire the view and talk to the pilot. All Air Cadets get the opportunity to fly with the AEF at least once each year, with each flight lasting about 25 minutes.



## Rheindahlen Adventure

Many cadets from all over the UK attended Autumn Camp at Rheindahlen Garrison in northern Germany in November 07. The programme at Rheindahlen has been running for many years but this is the first time that a camp was organised for the Autumn. Sgt McNish (seen in picture), from 2187 squadron was reported in the local press as saying "This week we broke the typical cadet camp mould as we took part in adventure training, visited museums and remembered the fallen."

The week consisted of a varied programme of visits to Germany and the Netherlands. Amongst the highlights were a visit to the Airborne Museum 'Hartenstein' and the Bridge at Arnhem, the scene of the heroic stand of the Parachute Regiment in 1944. The cadets and staff also visited the Commonwealth War Graves at Arnhem and Overloon.

# Nice to Meet You

Every newsletter we will do an in-depth interview from one member of the squadron - this edition it is the opportunity for Warrant Officer Alex Roddy to have his say:

## **Name, Rank and Position at Squadron:**

Alex Roddy, Adult Warrant Officer (AWO) and Adventure Training Officer / GOD!!



## **How long have you been at 2187 Squadron / how long have you been involved with the ATC ?**

I joined the ATC when I was 13 now I'm 35 so on and off for 22yrs...Gulp!! Not counting a brief spell with 1341 squadron I've been a member of staff for 9yrs.

## **How did you get to where you are today?**

When I first came to the Squadron it was just me and AWO Green; being the only Civilian Instructor he allowed me to organise lessons and to reform the band. All this experience gave me sound knowledge of squadron activities and gave the confidence required to apply for uniform staff position. I've been an AWO now for 4yrs.

## **What do you do for a day job?**

I am a Locksmith/Carpenter; Have my own business - AMM Security Ltd.

## **Can you play an instrument? And if so, what one and how good are you?**

Yes - When I was a cadet I became the Leading Trumpeter - I also played the Glock and snare drums - also the clarinet. Eventually I became the Band Drum Major. Which one was I good at - all of them, a long time ago!!!

## **What is your favourite food and drink?**

A Cup of tea - Black one sugar - (take note!). I also like Chicken - Chinese - Indian - would love to eat more healthily.

## **What is your favourite Pastime?**

Don't get much time to myself these days but I would say playing with my boys - I have two sons, Mason and Mitchel - they make me laugh. I also enjoy reading

## **What is your favourite band/music?**

Depeche Mode - Oasis - Stones; the list would go on.....

## **What makes you happy?**

Listen to my boys laughing and talking.

## **What makes you sad?**

Not winning the lottery....

## **Describe yourself in 3 words**

Loyal - Headstrong - Firm

## **What has been your greatest achievement in your life?**

Having a family.

## **Tell us something about yourself that we probably don't know**

As a cadet sergeant I was demoted for an altercation with an Officer and demoted to a Cpl..oops.! As your Warrant Officer I have been there, seen and done it all I know what cadets get up to BEWARE!.....ha ha ha.

# Lets Meet the Civilian Welfare Committee

## What is a Civilian Welfare Committee?

A civilian committee ('CivCom') is made up of adult volunteers dedicated to supporting the squadron. They are often made up of leading members of the local community and people who have a direct link the squadron, such as ex cadets and parents.

## What do they do?

The vast majority of the funding which enables both male and female cadets to enjoy such a unique and special relationship with the Royal Air Force, comes from an official source. Unfortunately it has limits, this, is where the role of the Civilian Committee becomes important. Its task is to consider both the welfare of all cadets and by fund raising make resources available to help with training or towards the purchase of additional equipment thereby enabling a much wider variety of activities to be undertaken. The committee also acts as an interface between the squadron and the local community.

## How often do they meet?

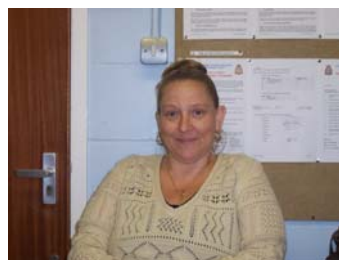
Our Civilian Committee meetings are generally held approximately every 6 weeks. The next meeting is due to be held on **Wednesday 30th January 2008**.

## I can't commit to regular meetings; can I still join the Committee?

Of course your help is always welcome, whatever time you have available to commit, whether it is to attend the meetings or to simply help out with arranging a fund-raising event. Any parent wishing to become involved with the civilian committee can contact the Committee Chairman on 01268 683670 or me on 01268 692422 for further details.



**Dennis Palmer, Committee Chairman** and is responsible for the smooth running of the Committee. He is a former RAF serviceman, and has also previously been an Adult Warrant Officer in the ATC with 2187 Squadron.



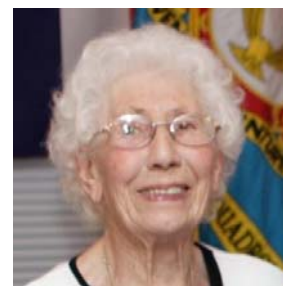
**Toni Evans, Committee Treasurer** and she is responsible for the disbursement all monies held on behalf of the Squadron. Toni joined the committee in early 2006 and in November 2006 took over the role as Treasurer.

**Hazel Weston, Committee Secretary** and is responsible for all associated paperwork, such as meeting minutes etc. Hazel joined the committee in November 2006 and immediately took up the role of Committee Secretary. Hazel is married to the 2187 Squadron Commanding Officer, Flt Lt Nick Weston.



**Phyllis Owens.** Phyllis joined the Committee over 50 years ago when her husband was Commanding Officer of 2187 Squadron.

She worked in Admin in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force (WAAF) during the war. She has also been awarded the MBE from the Queen.



**Alan Evans**  
Alan joined the committee in early 2006 and helps out whenever he can with the fundraising activities as well as maintaining the squadron mini-bus. Alan is married to Toni Evans, Committee treasurer.





## Lottery Win!



Many Thanks from everyone to Toni Evans, the squadron Treasurer for her efforts in securing £10,000 from the National Lottery Fund to put towards a new, much needed, squadron minibus. Over the coming months we will be arranging more fundraising events and look forward to seeing you there.

## Remembrance Day Parade is a Success



Every year 2187 (Canvey Island) Squadron ATC lead the Canvey Remembrance Day parade with the Marching Band, followed by the Army cadets and family/staff members and this year was no exception. On 11<sup>th</sup> November 2007 the Parade started from the Cadet Headquarters, Runnymede Road at approximately 10.15 am with the route taking the parade onto Long Road, arriving in time for the Remembrance Day Service at the Paddock's. Led by Rev David Tudor, returned soldiers from Afghanistan were among those paying their respects to the fallen alongside more than 100 other people taking part in the Canvey Ceremony.

Following the service the parade marched back along Long Road to the Royal British Legion building for a few drinks, then back to the squadron Headquarters.

All are welcome to join the parade next year- for further information please contact the squadron direct.

## Girls Sporting Achievement

Congratulations go to Cdts Robson, Mizon and Swan who have all recently received both Wing and Regional Blue's for their participation at both levels in various sporting activities - recent events being Netball and Hockey.

Keep up the good work!



## It's Christmas Party Time!!

Many Thanks to all of you who attended the squadron Christmas party this year and we hope that you enjoyed yourselves.



Particular thanks go to Civilian Instructor Dan Parsons (DJ Dan [www.dj-sound.biz](http://www.dj-sound.biz)) who provided the music all night and to Toni Evans who arranged the hall, decorations and the buffet.

We also had a surprise dance demonstration from the Mushroom Theatre Company, who are a charity working with children and young people so they can enjoy performing arts without the pressure of examinations and test.

All funds raised will be put into the pot towards a brand new minibus.

# Funding from Castle Point Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership Helps Cadets Gain Skills

CANVEY Air Cadets are learning how to save lives, thanks to funding from the Castle Point Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership. Peter Burch, Conservative Councillor for Cedar Hall and chairman of the partnership, went along recently to a parade night to meet the cadets and see the latest resources which has been purchased with the funding given.

The squadron contacted the partnership early last year at which point the squadron were offered funding to buy new band instruments such as trumpets and drums.

Then later on in 2007 the squadron were again rewarded with more funding to buy camping equipment and a Resusci Annie doll which helps with first-aid training.



Flt Lt Nick Weston, commanding officer, said: "The money to purchase extra equipment has been a great help to us and we hope to attract even more members to take part in the wide range of opportunities and activities we offer."



## Nice to meet you again

Did you know it is the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of 2187 (Canvey Island) Squadron ATC this year? Are you a current or former cadet, staff member, parent or committee member? Would you like to meet up with old friends? Would you like to make some new friends? Or do you just want to get dressed up and party!!!! Then.....

We are holding an 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reunion Ball on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2008 at the Oysterfleet Hotel, Canvey Island. More details will follow nearer the time, but if you are interested please contact us to get your name on our distribution list. Tickets cost £15 per person.

## Gift Aid...

Did you know that all parents can complete Gift Aid forms to benefit our squadron, regardless if you pay subs by Standing Order or not? Please help us by completing these forms, as the Government then helps us for every form completed, even if you pay subs by cash. Thank you!

## Do you Want to Write Something for the next Issue?

We really want to hear from you, so if you want to write something for the next newsletter please note that the deadline for all submissions is Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2008. All suggestions and/or articles are to be sent to [newsletter2187canvey@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:newsletter2187canvey@hotmail.co.uk)

## Contact Us

Interested in joining as an Air Cadet or as a volunteer member of Adult Staff? Do you have any comments or suggestions for the newsletter or would you prefer this newsletter in an alternative format (i.e. paper or electronic) - Telephone or email us, or simply drop in on our parade nights

**Squadron Headquarters Address** - (Note: the HQ has NO facilities to receive post )  
2187 (Canvey Island) Squadron ATC , Drill Hall, Runnymede Road, Canvey Island, Essex, SS8 0EF

**Parade Evenings** - Monday and Friday evenings 1915 - 2145 hrs (all year round, except Bank Holidays and Christmas)

**Telephone** - 01268 694528 (HQ, at above times only)

**Squadron Email** - [2187sqn@essex-aircadets.org](mailto:2187sqn@essex-aircadets.org)

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