



Sky High

The newsletter of 2187 (Canvey Island) Squadron ATC

Issue 8 - January 2009

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From the Editor



Happy New Year to you all and welcome to the latest edition of the squadron newsletter!!

Last year was an exciting year for the squadron with many awards, promotions and opportunities to go away on camps. Our cadets numbers also increased which was excellent news.

And who could forget the absolutely beautiful new minibus which we managed to buy in December - this will prove to be a great asset for us all.

Lets hope that this year is as successful and we continue to grow and develop as a squadron!!

Read on - and enjoy!

Hazel Weston,
Editor and Secretary to Civilian Welfare Committee

What's Been Happening?

- ⦿ CI Parsons commenced his BELA course in November 08 courtesy of Kent Wing
- ⦿ CI Parsons attended his Long Range RCO course weekend of 29th November
- ⦿ Our half of the Wing has been tasked with providing staff and cadets for the annual Region ATC Sunday parade in London, to the Central RAF Church at St Clement Danes for Sunday 1st February 09
- ⦿ Sgt Parker was due to commence her gliding scholarship in November, but apparently there is an issue with the gliders, so this is slightly delayed
- ⦿ Flt Sgt Stockwell has volunteered to attend a Football Referees course, following an email from WHO. We are currently awaiting dates
- ⦿ The squadron is partaking in the Wing Postal Shoot
- ⦿ There are currently 2 teams for the Falklands Competition in April
- ⦿ The squadron did some compass/bearings training at the Downs on Saturday 15th November. Many thanks to WO Roddy, Off Cdt Lindup and CI Parsons who took the time out to run this event.

Goodbye and Good Luck

The squadron would like to say a big thank you and goodbye to Warrant Officer Alex Roddy who recently left the Squadron on a transfer to 1341 (Thundersley) Squadron. He will be remembered for his valuable contribution to the squadron and we wish him all the luck!



WARMA 2 Day/50 Mile Cosford March

After doing the RAF Walking and Road Marching Association (WARMA) Cosford March last year, Flt Lt Weston is intending to do both Cosford and Nijmegen in 2010 as a squadron team. Training will start sometime this year so if you are interested then keep a look out for the notices and qualifying rules.

What's Going On?

Event/Activity	Who can attend?	How much does it cost?
Gliding @ 614 VGS, MDP Wethersfield, 10 th January 2009	Cadets	Free
AEF Flying @ RAF Wyton, 24 th January 2009	Cadets	Free
Hang gliding/Paragliding Course, Crickhowell, Wales, 1 st - 7 th February 2009	Cadets over 16	£50
Hang gliding/Paragliding Course, Crickhowell, Wales, 15 th - 21 st February 2009	Cadets over 16	£50
AEF Flying @ RAF Wyton, 18 th April 2009	Cadets	Free
Squadron Fundraiser Ball, Oysterfleet Hotel, Friday 3 rd April 2009	Everyone	£12
Gliding @ 614 VGS, MDP Wethersfield, 10 th May 2009	Cadets	Free
Mess Night and Awards Evening, Oysterfleet Hotel, Friday 9 th October 2009	Everyone	TBC
Squadron 'Battle of Britain' Open Day, Squadron Headquarters, TBC	Everyone	NA
Fundraising Quiz Night, TBC	Everyone	TBC

Bag Packing and Santa's Grotto Fundraising

Many thanks to all of the staff and cadets who worked very hard in December at both the Bag Packing and Santa's Grotto Fundraising Events.

The GMD Santa's Grotto was held at the Castle Point Bus Museum on Sunday's 7th, 14th and 21st December and the Bag Packing was held at Iceland Food Store on Saturday's 13th and 20th December.

As a result of this approximately £1000 was raised to go towards the squadron funds which is excellent news!



The Jack Petchey Foundation Present Cheque for £8,000

Many Thanks go to The Jack Petchey Foundation who donated £8000 to our minibus fund. A representative from the foundation came to the squadron on Monday 1st December 2008 to present the cheque to Mrs Evans and Flt Lt Weston.

Cadets Help with Poppy Appeal



Each year the nation expresses its support for The Royal British Legion's charity work through the Poppy Appeal. The current theme of "Serving those who Serve", emphasises the increasing need to help the men and women who are serving today, as well as ex-Services and dependants.

Every year 2187 (Canvey Island) Squadron cadets help out with the Poppy Appeal collecting down the Town Centre and this year we managed to raise £734.35. In December two members of the Canvey Island branch of the RBL came down to present the cadets with a congratulatory certificate. Well done everyone for your hard work!



Lets Meet Some of the New Recruits

We've had quite a lot of new faces around lately and we thought it was time that they were all formally introduced to us. All of the new cadets who have joined since May 2008 were asked the following questions:

- (1) What School do you go to?
- (2) What hobbies do you have?
- (3) Why did you join the Air Cadets?

Welcome to you all and we hope you enjoy your time with us!!!

Cadet Thomas

- Cornelius Vermuyden
- I like sports and playing the guitar
- I joined because I heard about the cadets from my brother



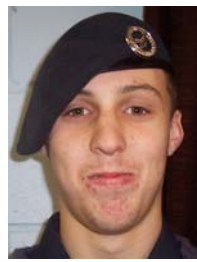
Cadet Cornell

- Castle View
- I like street dancing, singing and going out with my mates
- I joined because my friends said it was cool and it gave me stuff to do. My cousin joined the army cadets



Cadet L Hooper

- Castle View
- I like Sports i.e. swimming and dancing
- I joined because I heard about the cadets at school and thought it would be a good thing to do



Cadet M Hooper

- Furtherwick Park
- I like archery and cadets
- I joined because some of my family are in the RAF and I want to join as a pilot one day

Cadet Lowery

- Furthwick Park
- I like playing on my XBox
- I joined because I like aeroplanes



Ryan Mayo

- Furtherwick Park
- I like rugby, motor scrambling and fishing.
- I found out about the cadets through friends of the family and it sounded good fun so tried it out



Cadet Prosho

- Furtherwick Park
- I like playing Saints Row 2 on my XBox
- I joined because it was something to do and my friends come here



Cadet Pullen

- King John
- I belong to a badminton club
- I joined because I want to work with IT within the RAF

Cadet Sallis

- Furtherwick Park
- I like sports and the cadets
- I joined because I heard about the cadets from my friends at school and thought I would like it



Cadet Scales

- King John
- I like star gazing and rifle shooting
- I joined because it looked good fun





Cadet Swan

- ◉ Castle View
- ◉ I like playing on my BMX, on my Xbox and on mountain bikes
- ◉ I joined because it seemed like fun and you could learn about going on camps



Cadet White

- ◉ Furtherwick Park
- ◉ I like all sports, but I play football
- ◉ I joined because my friends were already here

Cadet Wilkinson

- ◉ Furtherwick Park
- ◉ I like riding my bike and playing Saints Row 2 on my Xbox
- ◉ I joined because it was something to do



Also Joined:

Cadet Fleming
Cadet Stevens

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 22nd February 2009. All suggestions and/or articles are to be sent to newsletter2187canvey@hotmail.co.uk



We are Going to Have a Ball!!!!

Following the success of the 60th Anniversary ball last year we have decided that we should make this a regular feature of our social calendar. Again it is an opportunity for you to dress up, have good time and dance to a live band.

So what are the details?

When? - Friday 3rd April 2009;

Where? - at The Oysterfleet Hotel, Canvey Island;

What Time? - From 7.30 - 12.30;

How much? - £12 per person (price includes a light buffet)

If you are interested in coming along please contact us to get yourself a ticket - please note that entrance will be by ticket only.

New Squadron Minibus Arrives!

Thanks to the extremely hard work done by our squadron Treasurer, Mrs Toni Evans, we are lucky enough to have our brand new minibus! We are now the proud owners of a 17-seater Ford Transit, complete with squadron graphics. This has been a major project, and has been made possible with significant donations from the following organisations;

- National Lottery Awards for All - £10,000
- The Jack Petchey Foundation - £8,000
- Clothworkers Foundation - £5,000
- Garfield Weston Foundation - £3,000



Many thanks to these organisations, and to our wonderful Treasurer!

Nice to Meet You

Every newsletter we do an in-depth interview from one member of the squadron - this edition it is the opportunity for Civilian Instructor Chris Tunley to have his say:

Name:

Christopher Tunley

Rank and Position at Squadron:

Civilian Instructor . I am the squadron First Aid and Aircraft Recognition Officer

How long have you been at 2187 Squadron?

Approx 2 years and 6 months

How long have you been involved with the ATC?

Approx 2 years and 6 months

How did you get to where you are today?

Putting the work in to get what, and where I wanted to be

What do you do for a day job?

I am a State Registered Paramedic, I work for the East of England Ambulance Service NHS Trust. I have just been promoted from a Team Leader to an Operations Manager

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

I play the Bass Guitar in a covers band. I used to be the rhythm guitarist but our bass player at the time got the sack so I volunteered to play the bass, 4 strings are easier than 6, less stuff to remember! I don't think I'm that bad, not been booted off or had anything thrown at me for a while now

What is your favourite drink?

I like a nice cold beer, but it must served in a glass

What is your favourite food?

Curry, Isn't that everyone's favourite food?

What is your favourite Pastime?

Drinking cold beer served in a glass and eating curry, not too hot though, know what I mean!

What is your favourite band/music?

Oh dear, as the rest of the Squadron are going to see this I had better play it safe and just say I like all sorts of music. That reminds me I really must catalogue my Val Doonican LP collection some time soon

What makes you happy?

Having a lay in and hearing other people having to get up for work

What makes you sad?

Not getting my own way

Describe yourself in 3 words

Thoughtful (most of the time), Older (definitely) and Wiser, (maybe)

What has been your greatest achievement in your life?

Becoming an Aircrew Paramedic on the Essex Air Ambulance

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

I can play God Save the Queen on the Kazoo whilst blindfolded and standing on one leg juggling 3 eggs at the same time



Civilian Welfare Committee AGM

When: 21st January 2009 @ 8pm

Where: Squadron Headquarters

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 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 (such as the recent purchase of our new minibus and the band 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.

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 either Dennis Palmer, the Committee Chairman on 01268 683670 or Hazel Weston, Committee Secretary on 01268 692422 for further details.

Christmas Party Time!!

Many Thanks to all of you who attended the squadron Christmas party this year, held at the Canvey Rugby Club on Saturday 13th December 2008 and we hope that you all enjoyed yourselves.



As you all know there was a fancy dress theme of Film or Cartoon Characters this year and we were not disappointed. The prizes were awarded as follows:



- Best dressed cadet went to Cdt Swan who was dressed as Captain Jack from The Pirates of the Caribbean
- Best Dressed Adult went to Miss Stokes who was dressed as Pebbles from the Flintstones

Also, particular thanks go to CI Dan Parsons (DJ Dan www.dj-sound.biz) who provided the music all night and to Mrs Evans/Mrs Weston who arranged the hall and the buffet.

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

Newsletter Email - newsletter2187canvey@hotmail.co.uk