



Sky High

60 years

The newsletter of 2187 (Canvey Island) Squadron ATC
Issue 7 - November 2008

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From the Editor

Welcome to the latest edition of the squadron newsletter.

Who could believe that our newsletter has been going for a whole year now - many thanks to everyone who has contributed to the articles and given me updates on everything that has been going on. Without the support of the Cadets and Squadron Staff this newsletter wouldn't have been as successful as it has been.

Remember, as always mentioned 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 McDermott and CI Parsons passed the Basic Weapons Coaching Course at Pirbright.
- ⦿ CI Parsons is booked on the Long Range Shooting Course for November
- ⦿ 4 of our cadets gained Wing Blues for shooting
- ⦿ Sgt Parker is due to start her Gliding Scholarship at 614 Volunteer Gliding Squadron in November
- ⦿ Sgt Evans and Cdt Goody have applied for Nordic Skiing courses, and have a good chance of being selected.
- ⦿ Sgt Evans has also applied for Hangliding courses
- ⦿ CI Parsons has applied for the BELA course being run by Kent Wing.
- ⦿ Flt Lt Weston and Off Cadet Worrall attended the Duke of Edinburgh Introduction To The Award course on the 19th Oct - this permits them to be authorised expedition assessors, which is a new requirement set by DoFE
- ⦿ Thanks to Off Cadet Lindup for all his good work (and everyone that assisted) with the programme with Castle View pupils - we might repeat this sometime next year
- ⦿ 17 cadets had a great day when they went Air Experience flying in Grob Tutors at No.5 AEF, RAF Wyton, on 25th October - thanks to Off Cadet Worrall and CI Evans who went with them

Sgt Stockwell Gains a Promotion

Congratulations to Sgt Stockwell who has successfully gained a recent promotion - he has now become one of the first few Flight Sergeants in the Wing, after our Senior Wing Staff Officer, Sqn Ldr Penn, dropped in to present his new stripes. We wish him all the best!



More Minibus Funding

Mrs Evans has managed to gain for us an additional £5000 funding from The Clothworkers Foundation to add to the minibus kitty. Altogether we have managed to raise over £25,000. It looks like we have now been able to buy a really excellent 17 seat vehicle, complete with squadron graphics! Well done to Toni!!



Snowdonia Expedition



4 cadets recently had a great time when they attended the Air Cadet Adventure Training Centre at Llanbedr, in Snowdonia, and Flt Lt Julie Thomson, CO from 1312 (Southend) Squadron ATC was singing their praises. Well done to those of you who went, and for those of you who missed the chance, remember to keep an eye out on the notice board - places on events such as these go fast!

What's Going On?

Event/Activity	Who can attend?	How much does it cost?
Remembrance Day Parade, Sunday 9 th November	Cadets	NA
Inter-Squadron Cross Country, Sunday 16 th November	Cadets	NA
Adventure Training Weekend - 29 th and 30 th November	Cadets	NA
Squadron Fancy Dress Christmas Party, Canvey Rugby Club, Saturday 13 th December	Everyone	£5 each
Squadron 'Battle of Britain' Open Day, Squadron Headquarters, TBC	Everyone	NA
Fundraising Quiz Night, TBC	Everyone	TBC
Squadron Fundraiser Ball, Oysterfleet Hotel, Friday 3 rd April 2009	Everyone	TBC
Mess Night and Awards Evening, Oysterfleet Hotel, Friday 9 th October 2009	Everyone	TBC



Flt Lt Weston Gains a City & Guilds Graduateship (in Youth Management and Training)

This is a vocational award which is run in conjunction with City & Guilds. The Graduateship provides formal recognition of personal achievement and the application of professional and technical expertise within the Cadet Forces.

In order to gain this award Flt Lt Weston had to demonstrate through written work, a knowledge and competency equivalent to that which could be expected of a graduate at Honours degree level or someone who had gained a vocational qualification or NVQ at Level 6.

Well done for all your hard work!

A Great Night was had by all!! Squadron Mess Night is a Success!



Each year our squadron holds a dinner & dance, known as a Mess Night. This is where we recognise the achievements of both the entire squadron and individual cadets through the presentation of annual awards for personal achievement. Therefore this is a very important event in our calendar, especially with this year being our 60th anniversary.



This year our Mess Night was held on Friday 3rd October 2008 at The Oysterfleet Hotel, Canvey Island, and we were honoured to have Castle Point Mayor Cllr Ladzrie and his wife as our principle guests. After the dinner there was a disco supplied DJ Dan (www.dj-sound.biz). Many Thanks Dan for your hard work that evening

Best Cadet
Cdt Cartwright



Best NCO
Sgt Evans



Best Sports Cadet
Cpl Mizon



Most Improved Cadet
Cdt Lee



Best Recruit
Cdt Stevens



Flt Lt Maltby Community Trophy
Sgt Parker



Good Show - Mrs Evans
(for fundraising efforts)



Good Show - Miss Maltby
(for work with squadron band)



Good Show - Cdt Sgt Parker
(for quick-thinking action in a first aid situation)



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 28th December 2008. All suggestions and/or articles are to be sent to newsletter2187canvey@hotmail.co.uk



CI Parsons Accepted on BELA Course!

CI Parsons has been accepted for the BELA course within Kent Wing, starting this November - this will be a big bonus for the squadron, and a big commitment for him, so we thank him in advance for all his hard work towards this.

So, what is BELA? The Basic Expedition Leader Award was launched in 1988 and is intended for anyone who has the responsibility of looking after others, particularly the young, out-of-doors, or who wish to train others to carry out day journeys and backpacking expeditions. It has nothing to do with mountains, climbing or ropes. The award requires a minimum of 90 contact hours of instruction and practical work and this is followed by 30 hours of voluntary leadership experience during which the skills from training are put into practice under supervision.



Fireworks Night goes with a Bang!

Many Thanks to Castle Point Borough Council who gave the squadron 15 free entry tickets for the Waterside Fireworks Night held on 1st November 2008, as a thank you for our car marshalling assistance in previous years.

Sgt Evans attends RAF Police Work Experience Course



The importance of undertaking a period of work experience is growing year-on-year. Employers want to recruit people who have some knowledge of the working world and this is something that students are becoming more aware of. A period of work experience can offer the following:

- Opportunity to put theory learning into practice.
- Opportunity to consider career options.
- Opportunity to find out what you like or do not like doing.
- Opportunity to get some practical experience or start to develop 'employability' skills.

The RAF offer many opportunities for work experience and as such Sgt Evans attended an RAF Police Work Experience Placement in October. If you are interested in attending one of the RAF work experience placements please speak to a member of staff.

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, Air Scouts and family/staff members and this year was no exception. On 9th November 2008 the Parade started from the Cadet Headquarters, Runnymede Road at approximately 10.10 am with the route taking the parade onto Long Road, arriving in time for the Remembrance Day Service at the Paddock's. Following the service the parade marched back along Long Road to the Royal British Legion 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.

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 Daniel Parsons to have his say:

Name:

Daniel Parsons aka Crazy Squirrel



Rank and Position at Squadron:

Civilian Instructor. I am the Squadron Weapon training and range officer

How long have you been at 2187 Squadron?

3 years

How long have you been involved with the ATC?

3 years

How did you get to where you are today?

Well mum dad, birds and bees

What do you do for a day job?

Disc Jockey

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

Yes the trumpet but not that good - too many bum notes

What is your favourite drink?

Alcoholic lemonade

What is your favourite food?

Pizza

What is your favourite Pastime?

That's easy - Air Cadets

What is your favourite band/music?

I like 80's dance music and meat loaf; sorry was that out loud?

What makes you happy?

Seeing my baby girl and theme parks

What makes you sad?

Not getting my own way

Describe yourself in 3 words

crazy, fun, loving

What has been your greatest achievement in your life?

Becoming a member of the Royal Air Force in 1998

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

Not sure what to say errrrr ermmm I am an adrenaline junkie.

CVQO Offers BTEC's

The Cadet Vocational Qualification Organisation (CVQO) offer cadets over the age of 16 the opportunity to earn BTEC Qualifications, with the aim of assisting them to gain more practical-based qualifications. And best of all, it's free for cadets. Currently there is a choice of three internationally recognised vocational qualifications that are respected by employers as well as institutes of higher education.

Qualifications currently on offer:

- The BTEC First Diploma in Public Services
- The BTEC First Diploma in Music
- The BTEC in Aviation Studies (awarded on completion of the cadet syllabus)

So far 11 cadet have registered for the BTEC in Public Services, with 7 cadets additionally registered for the BTEC in Music Studies. Each BTEC is equivalent to 4 GCSEs (grade A-C). If you are interested, but haven't yet put your name down, please speak to a member of the squadron staff.

BTEC First Diploma in Public Services



The course mixes theory and practical elements with an emphasis on leadership, teamwork, communications, problem solving and fitness.

The syllabus has been designed to improve valuable life skills. Cadets learn professional CV preparation, interviewing techniques, communication, first aid, adventure training, health and nutrition.

BTEC First Diploma in Music

The BTEC First Diploma in Music has been designed to develop a basic understanding of music as a profession and combines both technical skills with practical elements and research.



Upon completion, Cadets will have demonstrated an understanding of all aspects of performance including solo and ensemble work and how to manage rehearsals. They will also learn how to market, budget, advertise, programme and publicise a music event. Cadets are expected to be able to play a musical instrument prior to enrolling in the course, but do not have to be able to read music.



It's Party Time!!

Just a reminder to you all that we are hosting a Christmas party at the Canvey Island Rugby Cub on Saturday 13th December 2008 from 7pm onwards. There will be a Fancy dress theme of Film or Cartoon Characters and there will be prizes for the three best dressed (please note that fancy dress is optional)



A paying bar is available, and a buffet will be laid on - tickets are £5 each.

Featuring DJ Dan (www.dj-sound.biz), he will definitely get you up and dancing! All money raised going to the squadron funds.

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