



# THE WINGED HELMET

## 228 (Bromley) Squadron Newsletter

New Year 2014 Edition

# ROYAL AIR FORCE AIR CADETS

## the next generation

### CONTROL COLUMN

Flight Sergeant (ATC) A Grange

This is the first newsletter since I took over command and I wanted to introduce myself. I have been at 228 as a cadet and then as a member of staff since 1995 and it is a privilege to be asked to take command. I hope to carry on the fine work done by Flight Lieutenant Spreadbury.

I hope you enjoy this edition of the Winged Helmet. As you can see the squadron and the cadets are as busy as ever and are getting the most out of the opportunities the organisation gives. From helping to staff community events to working towards Duke of Edinburgh awards; from representing the squadron at sporting competitions to attending AEF flying,

A particular highlight was the recent presentation evening where we heard the cadets describe the year in their own words and celebrated the success of the squadron.

There is a lot still to come from the squadron. If you want to keep in touch with what we are doing, have a look at the squadron website, [www.228squadron.org](http://www.228squadron.org) or subscribe to our Twitter feed @228SqnATC.

### DACRE SWORD NOMINATION

Staff Cadet Flight Sergeant Tom Hannath has been put forward by the Squadron as our representation for the Dacre Sword Award. The Dacre Sword is awarded to the Best Male Cadet in the Corps. To be put forward to Kent Wing as a Squadron nominee is a big achievement that has taken lots of work and determination to achieve.

The First Stage of the process was conducted in January at Headquarters Kent Wing, here Flt Sgt Hannath had an interview with the Wing Staff (Sqn Ldr Cremin and Flt Lt Taylor). In the interview he was asked everything from current affairs too our Parent Service, the Royal Air Force (its structure to capabilities) and his personal cadet career and achievements. Flt Sgt Hannath said 'I was honoured to be nominated to be the squadrons representation, it was a good experience even if a little daunting to be interviewed by two staff members, and is a true reflection on how an RAF application interview is'

### DofE SUCCESS

2014 Started with three successful completions of the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh award. Cadet Corporal Jared Cook, Cadet Cameron McCabe and Cadet Adam Hillman.

These three cadet were all in the same expedition group. With the Successful Completion of the Bronze level of the award scheme allows them to progress and challenge themselves on the



next level; the Silver Award. Also congratulations to Cpl Rosie Crowley for gaining her silver award as this went to print... Looking forward to seeing another gold award participant on the Squadron.

## JACK PETCHY

228 Bromley Squadron is proud to be supported by the Jack Petchy Foundation award scheme. This scheme provides three awards of £200 per year to cadets who have been nominated by their peers for going above what is expected of them, facing a fear and succeeding or showing commitment to a cause. The winner of the march award is Cdt Cpl James Smith. He has been nominated by his peers because of all his own work and drive to set up our fantastic new squadron website. His award of £200 pounds is to be spent on something for the squadron of his own choosing.



To have a look at all his hard work please visit [www.228bromleysquadron.org](http://www.228bromleysquadron.org)

## BEL COURSE



The Basic Expedition Leaders Course is a level three qualification awarded by Sport Leaders UK. The Kent Wing Adventure Training Team run this course every year for Staff and Staff Cadets (18 year old cadets). This is the first rung on the ladder to Adventure Training Qualifications. Once completed, the course will enable the holders of the award to plan and run over night expeditions in easy rolling hill terrain all over the UK. This is the Award that all DofE Expedition Leaders hold to enable them to supervise expeditions and day walks. This year we have two staff cadets from the squadron completing the course, Staff Cadet Flt Sgt Hannath and Staff Cadet Sgt Smith.

The course is conducted over ten months with many weekends away, where they are continually assessed during exercises, walks, expeditions and on their teaching and leadership skills. The course involves 30 hours of consolation where they have to plan, organise and run, under the supervision of qualified staff an over night expedition.



As this Newsletter has gone to print they are a third of the way through the course as going strong. Well done and good luck to you both!

# MUSIC AT 228

## CORPS CONCERT BAND CAMP

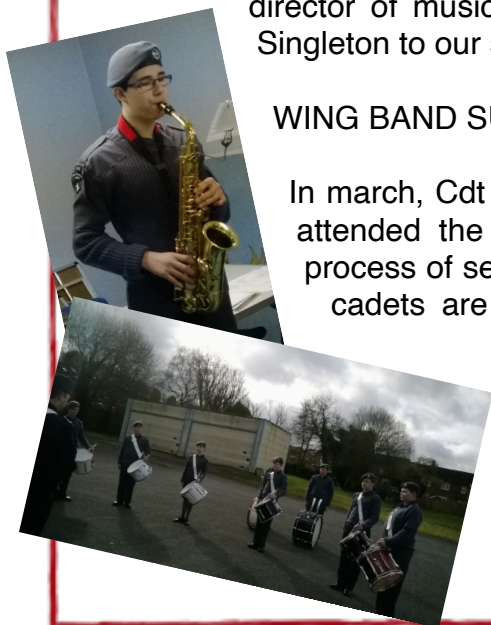
During the February half term, Staff Cadet Sgt Smith and Cpl Crowley both attended the annual National Concert band camp at RAF College Cranwell. They spent a week working with and being assisted by the professional musicians of the RAF college band. The cadets came together from squadrons all over the UK for the camp. During the week they were rehearsing the music for the concert and the end of the camp. The concert was attended by important guest associated to the Air Cadets, including the officer in charge of the Air Cadets; Air Commodore Dawn McCafferty. The band played a huge variety of pieces, including well known film music and traditional marches. The week wasn't all hard work, there was still time to go bowling, and have a tour around college hall officers mess to name a few activities. They met many inspirational members of staff, who all had experience in the RAF



music services, and even managed to invite the principle director of music within the Air Carets Organisation, Wing Commander Singleton to our squadron to assist our new Drum Corps!

## WING BAND SUCCESS

In march, Cdt Compton (saxophone) and Cdt Cpl Smith (Snare Drum) attended the Kent wing marching band day. Kent wing are in the process of setting up what looks to be a successful band, and our two cadets are set to be part of this. Throughout the day, they both picked up new skills which they could bring back to the squadron and teach to our new drum corps. In the future we hope they will progress further in musical success in the corps, and attend region and perhaps national camps and events.



# AREA 2 DECATHLON

The area 2 decathlon took place on the 8th - 9th of March and saw Sgt Smith, Sgt Healey, Cpl Smith, Cdt Smith, Cdt McCabe, Panayi, and Cdt Compton traveling up to the Crowbrough training camp to take part in activities such as kayaking, an obstacle course, and archery. Some interesting things happened over the weekend such as Cpl Smith slipping while crossing a stream, Cdt McCabe





earning a Wing marksman, and Sgt Smith losing her compass, being able to take a mental baring and find a hidden marker earning the team some bonus points. 228 also did well I'm the bleep test with Cdt McCabe reaching level 12. Both teams did excellently in the archery scoring very highly. collectively this all led to Sgt Smiths coming first in their category and Sgt Healey's team coming 7th .A big well done to all the cadets participated and I hope to see us 'grabbing the gold' next year.

## FIRST AID COURSE

One of the first training weekends this year occurred on the 17th - 19th January when the opportunity to complete a First Aid at Work course was available. The course was run at the Squadron by CI D Boyling and was available to cadets over 16 and the staff. The course is an intensive course that covers a wide variety of situations and medical conditions that are likely to be seen in a 'working' environment. This course is recognised by employers and is advantageous to cadets that are 16 and looking for a Saturday job.



We are happy to announce that all candidates who attended passed the course, congratulations to; Cpl James Smith, Cpl Daniele Grillo, Sgt Rebecca Smith, Cdt Tapia Andem, Cpl Rosie Crowley, CI Stephanie Lee.

Since the course one cadet has had to use their first aid knowledge, they explain below;

M20 crash.

I was on my way home from my third Nijmegen training weekend when a car hit a lorry and rolled over on to its roof, FS Hall from Welling squadron quickly pulled over and jumped out, asking if anybody was first aid trained. As I had taken the first aid at work course earlier in the year I quickly got out of the minibus and rushed over to the car, as well as some other passers by. The car was lying in the drivers door giving us no access to the trapped man. When I looked at him for the first time to try and assess the severity of his injuries I noticed that he was looking me in the eye, it was clear that he was in a lot of pain and was having trouble moving. His head lay upon the smashed window of the car with his body lying as if he was asleep. He was struggling to breath and was now desperate for breath. Some other members of his family were travelling in a separate car and desperately trying to see him, I reassured them that he was ok when I knew he wasn't and told them to go by the side of the road where it was safe.

Luckily an ambulance was travelling down the M20 at the time of the accident and was with us within a couple of minutes, one of the ambulance crew climbed into the overturned car to try and lift him out, after failing to do this he said that we had no other option but to flip the car over, allowing them to access the door. When the car landed the man was thrown back and forth in the car smacking his head on the passengers seat and landing back in his seat. It was now clear that the man had quite a deep wound to the back of the neck, I also think he was suffering with a punctured lung, broken rib, and some kind of spinal injury as he could not move his legs. The ambulance crew quickly reacted to the car being overturned and tried to get the man out. The door was open but was not giving them enough access so me and another member of public ripped the door, allowing the ambulance crew to get the man out of the car and into their care. They told me that I was

no longer needed so I returned to the minibus with FS Hall and left the scene. As we drove off I saw that the man was having his body surveyed to search for any unseen problems that were covered by his clothes.

After I had left the scene I did not feel that I had done anything, it just felt like a normal day. It wasn't until the next day that I realised what I had done, and it took until that night when I was talking to the staff at the squadron to realise that the emotion caused by it. I still have feel worried by what had happened and hope I never have to go through anything like that again. I am very thankful that Sgt Boyling trained in first aid as if I wasn't for that training I would not have been allowed out of the minibus to help preserve that mans life.

I am glad to say that the man is in hospital now and is on the road to recovery, and I would like to personally hope that he makes a full and speedy recovery.

Cpl Smith

On the Kent news website AnotherKentmum wrote:

*I cant comment on the state of the driving but having witnessed the immediate aftermath I would like to congratulate the group of youngsters from a cadet corps*

## CI TO SGTS



interview their current affairs was tested.

These interviews are designed to ensure that all uniformed staff have the same knowledge and abilities whilst holding the same rank, ensuring they have the capabilities to pass on their knowledge and skills to the cadets... they aren't a 'walk in the park'.

During the first quarter of 2014, CI Boyling and CI Lee have both successfully passed their wing boards to progress their cadet careers. By passing this board they has now become a uniformed Non Commissioned Officer within the Air Cadets. The wing board was conducted by the Wing Commander, a Wing Staff Officer and the Wing Warrant Officer. During the knowledge of the Air Cadets, the Royal Air Force and

A big congratulations to Sgt (ATC) D Boyling and Sgt (ATC) S Lee!

## GROUP CAPTAIN VISIT

On Monday 17th February the Squadron had a visit from Group Captain Hakin. The Group Captain is the Officer Commanding London and South East Region (LaSER) of which Kent Wing is part. The other wings in the Region are Essex, Sussex, Surrey, Middlesex and London.

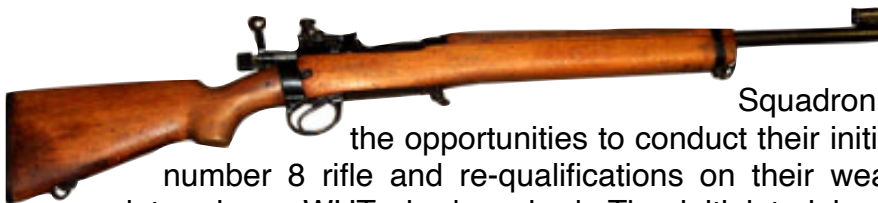
The day of his visit coincided with the half term dates in Bromley and the corps concert band camp, so unfortunately our numbers wh down on our normal parade strength. However, those cadets that were down and able to meet with him, talked about their future aims, for those



interested in a career in the forces he gave some advice too. The cadets were then able to ask the Group Captain question about his service history and future plans for the Region.

He later said before leaving, that our cadets presented themselves excellently and showed that the training being provided is being taken on board. Well Done 228!

## SHOOTING



In March, 1903 (Penge) Squadron provided our squadron with the opportunities to conduct their initial weapons training on the .22 number 8 rifle and re-qualifications on their weapons handling test for those cadets whose WHTs had expired. The initial training on the weapon teaches the cadets about range safety and conduct and also the correct procedure whilst firing in the prone position. Once the training is complete they must complete a weapons handling test to qualify them to fire live ammunition on the range. This must be redone every six months.



All the cadets who attended the training and requalifications passed. Cadet McCabe who conducted the initial training went on to gain a wing marksman on his first live shoot at the area 2 decathlon.

## PRESENTATION EVENING



The annual presentation evening was held in March to celebrate the successes of the cadets in 2013. A range of awards were received by many cadets, and it was a chance for all to look back at all that had been achieved by the cadets of 228 squadron. The evening kicked off with a talk from Flt Sgt Grange, being his first presentation as OIC, followed by talks from some cadets on just a few of the activities taken part in last year.

Awards were received by a select few for their achievements, however many more were worthy candidates. The evening was rounded up by the drum corps first ever public performance. All in all it was a successful evening, and we look forward to next year!

## QUIZ NIGHT

The event took place at the St George's town hall, and was put together and organised by Flt sgt Hannath, with help setting up from Cpl Cook, Cpl Crowley, Cdt Stanford and Cdt Andem. The quiz which consisted of a series of rounds in which the teams battled it out and put their minds to the test to see who would emerge victorious. The questions were general knowledge and had a tough movie recognition round and also featured some cadet based questions to test the cadets knowledge.

Overall the night was a great success raising the sum of £525.53 and everyone who attended had a great time and it was a very well organised event. The winning team was made up of staff from 228 Sqn, 129 (Tunbridge Wells) Sqn and 402 (Gravesend) Sqn.

Cdt Bourdeaux

## FLYING



On Saturday morning, four cadets met Flight Sergeant Grange at the squadron to start the long journey to RAF Benson in Oxfordshire. We were to fly with 6 AEF Sqn RAF, which consists of operational RAF and Royal Naval pilots, who volunteer to fly on weekends with cadets. Needless to say we were all very excited.

Once we arrived, we were given the safety brief about how to exit the aircraft should an emergency occur. Unfortunately the Grob Tutors (the aircraft we were flying) are not equipped with ejection seats, so we had to make do with plain old parachutes. Afterwards, we were kitted with flying suits, gloves, helmets and sunglasses (the last of which warranted some great Tom Cruise impressions) and awaited our turn to go up.

Finally, it was my turn. We taxied out to the runway, did the final checks and took off. Once in the air, the pilot gave me control while he talked me through the aerobatics we were going to do. First, the loop. Just pull back on the stick and watch the world turn upside down. It all looked pretty simple, I reckon I could give it a go. I pulled back and let the G-forces act and sink me into my chair and watched the world turn from 6,000ft. Fantastic. Next, the barrel roll. A stomach churning loop turned aileron roll which my pilot pulled off with great ease. I, however ended up a full 45 degrees away from where I was meant to end up.

After other loops, rolls and other daring tricks, we finally landed back at Benson, my first flight had been a fantastic experience, and one I wish could have been longer. We all had about 35 minutes on the controls of a Grob Tutor and thoroughly enjoyed every second of it.

Cpl Cook

# Squadron AGM

PARENTS COME ALONG TO THE SQUADRON ON

21st May 2014

AND FIND OUT WHY WE ARE PROUD OF OUR CADETS  
AND WHAT OUR FUTURE PLANS ARE.

HAVE YOUR SAY ON WHAT WE DO...



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