APACHE IMPRESSES WITH EXPLOSIVE DISPLAY

ALSO
654 SQN 4 REGT AAC DISBANDMENT PARADE
ANGLIA GLIDING CLUB SOARING SUCCESSES
SUFFOLK ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY COVENANT WEBSITE GOES LIVE
HISTORICAL AIRCRAFT DISPLAYS
Ringshall School is a good school where the children achieve above the expected level for their age. Teaching in the nurture class is a strength of the school. There is a climate of warmth and support in which pupils respond and thrive. (OFSTED June 2012).

The Local Authority operates a bus from Wattisham to the school which is supervised by members of the school staff. Our Breakfast Club runs from 7:45-8:45 with a choice of breakfasts. We have a variety of after school activities running throughout the term. We work closely with a number of local Nursery providers including Wattisham Childcare.

Visit our website: www.ringshallschool.co.uk or phone 01473 658307 to arrange a visit to the school.

Boarding in today’s world

Many adults’ view of boarding, especially at a young age, is based not surprisingly on their own experience: they loved it or hated it. Or their lack of experience: we didn’t board and we cannot bear the thought of sending our young child off to board. Whether they boarded or not, today’s parents will be pleasantly surprised to see for themselves what today’s boarding schools are like: modern in outlook, flexible in the number of nights children board and above all, popular with the young boys and girls who attend them.

Children today do not feel pressurised into boarding because boarding is very often offered on a flexible basis initially, possibly only one night per week to start with. Parents of flexi-boarders choose boarding nights to suit family circumstances and, of course, what is best for their child. Boys and girls may choose to increase the number of nights spend boarding if they wish.

Usually, the decision to board will be driven by a desire to enjoy the company of friends once the normal school day is over. Where else in today’s world can a child play in complete safety with a couple of dozen friends after school?

Boys and girls enjoy the exclusive use of all facilities after school: the grounds, the swimming pool, and activities organized in the evenings such as golf, sailing, Brownies, the Boys’ Club or the Wood Cadets. Very often pupils are given opportunities for responsibility, as prefects, peer listeners or dormitory captains in the boarding house, where they learn to live together whilst developing greater independence.

Boarding is a happy experience and part of a unique childhood schools can offer their pupils. The quality of care is excellent. All those involved in boarding care (house parents, matrons, cooks, cleaners) are totally committed to the health and welfare of the boys and girls. Food, which is locally sourced, is appetising and healthy. Dormitories are bright, spacious and clean.

The fringe benefits of boarding, especially in today’s busy world are many: the liberation of time to enjoy work and play, and the company of friends; reassurance to parents in their busy working lives that their children are well cared for; the development of self-confidence and independence; a sense of ownership and loyalty towards school. Boarding suits many modern families.
With Autumn now upon us, it is good to see that most at the home base have managed to take some well deserved leave, albeit life has continued with Station units becoming involved in all sorts of training, sport and other activities, while 662 Sqn is the last squadron deployed on operations to Afghanistan. Again there have been some significant visitors to Wattisham and we have also hosted the annual Station Cocktail Party and Beating Retreat, which does a great deal to continue our relationship with the local population and those who have helped us throughout the year. Such events, and many more besides, underpin our involvement in the Suffolk Armed Forces Community Covenant, a partnership which is proving effective with some very tangible outcomes. Whilst there is much more to do in this area, the covenant goes from strength to strength with the launch of a new website, which can be viewed at www.suffolkmilitarycovenant.org.uk. As we look forward, a reminder that the annual Station Bonfire night will be held on 5 November 2014.

REMEMBER WHEREVER YOU ARE SERVING YOU CAN VIEW THE EAGLE ON-LINE AT: www.theeagleonline.co.uk
The Hollow Trees Team and the Creepy Creatures look forward to seeing you very soon.

The Holloween Festival with its 2014 Creepy Creatures theme promises farm fun for all the family.

There will be the Creepy Barn to enter if you dare, once inside you will meet the weird and wonderful fauna who have arrested this farm for a while. Out in the fields you will find a maze maze with more Creepy Creatures, all caped, as they don’t escape into the nearby Witches Wood where he will be the mackerel amongst the trees. There will be some poolish games to play including frisbee golf and hungry fun. The Jeeps Creepers Hay Stack will be a challenge to climb and there’s the Creepy central dance floor on too.

All this creepy carrying on takes place on the regular farm trail. The activities are in addition to the normal farm trail fun. There will still be the fishside slate, the onions chat, the Hill Top tent, rope swing, welly-throwing, mini only pole and more.

Then there are all the Hollow Trees Farm animals, the goats, cats, pigs and chickens; they will all be waiting to see you.

Wattisham Station and the AH Force continue to live life to the full. We march forward towards the end of Op HERRICK and have been afforded the opportunity to re-shape the way we do business.

We need to prepare for new challenges and with new challenges comes a new excitement. The journey will take time and there will be some hurdles on the way – I for one am looking forward to change.

Before I summarise our achievements and articulate the changes to come I thought it would be prudent to remind readers of the most valuable attribute on Station. It may appear like a tried and tested cliché, but I truly believe what makes the Station special in its ability to deliver, is ‘the people’ and the families. We all belong to a fantastic, professional and determined family who unquestionably deliver excellence. We can only do this because of the quality of the soldiers, civilian servants and civilian staff on camp.

And for those that are married, we keep delivering because of the support we receive from our families. Hence the photo on top of this forward has changed – for this edition it is no longer a picture of a young soldier but of my family unit. I would like to dedicate this edition of the Eagle to women and mothers who work hard and deliver what is asked and to the families, husbands, wives, partners, mums and dads – without whom we would ultimately struggle.

The last 3 months have seen a number of high profile visits, a Station Cocktail Party, the restructuring of the Force is advancing well. It was hugely disappointing to say goodbye to 654 Sqn (my first AAC Squadron), but I can now concentrate on delivering the other front line squadrons at reduced readiness and establishing a more efficient training model for Conversion to Role. Step one is to decentralise the REME and aircraft ownership. This has begun and while there will inevitably be teething problems; I am heartened by the enthusiasm.

The plan is in place and we will continue to refine the structures as we move into next year. Secondly, to infrastructure. It must be clear to most that there has been under investment in Wattisham over the last few decades. However, the mood appears to be changing – by this I do not mean we will witness large projects soon, but there is a wider understanding that the Station needs support. Three Single Living Accommodation blocks were refurbished at the beginning of the year. 16 Bde and JHC have financed a commercial contractor to conduct an assessment of our facilities and help draw up a 20-year plan for the Station. The report is due in October – I hope to build on the findings of this report and produce an Infrastructure Plan that demands investment and maps Wattisham for the longer-term future. Sadly no promises – there is considerable competition for scarce money. That said, one of the first projects on the roadmap appears to be receiving positive vibes; the refurbishment of the Community Centre has the support of a number of local businesses, charities, and AAC and REME.

Foreword by Colonel JS Etherington Late/AAC Commander Wattisham Flying Station

Wattisham Station and the AH Force continue to live life to the full. We march forward towards the end of Op HERRICK and have been afforded the opportunity to re-shape the way we do business.

Wattisham Station and the AH Force continue to live life to the full. We march forward towards the end of Op HERRICK and have been afforded the opportunity to re-shape the way we do business.
In the nine months I have been in 3 Regiment, this time around, I have been constantly heartened by the thoroughly professional attitude of our soldiers (and our Royal Navy and Royal Air Force personnel too!). They know their stuff, of that there can be no doubt.

I am pleased to report that 662 Squadron hit the ground running on arrival in Afghanistan, and with our pilots proving their well earned reputations for flying skill, professional maturity and clear judgement almost immediately. As ever, they are only able to do this thanks to the endless hard work of the Squadron’s ground crews, engineers and signallers… a true team effort.

A demanding training cycle has been conducted by 663 Squadron who are prepared to provide further support to 662 Squadron, should it be required. This is now done, and those who are ‘out there’ should be the last. Much of 663 Squadron’s hard work has formed the basis of the training the Regiment will adopt as we redeploy from Afghanistan and get ready for whatever comes next. At the same time 663 Squadron continues to support exercises across the country and is looking forward to taking over responsibility for training new Apache aviators as it changes role to the Operational Training squadron in 2015. The Regiment has also maintained responsibilities for the Attack Helicopter Force Display Team, performing at air shows and events across the country. The recent addition of pyrotechnic support has enabled the team to display realistic scenarios, illustrating to all viewers the flexibility, power and precision which we deliver to the battlefield. They have had an outstanding season – beautiful choreography in a menacing gun platform delivered with in concert with fire and noise. They have all, from management, dexterous flying skill, ground and engineering, been giving up their weekends to off our work to the public. Despite such a busy work schedule the Regiment remains determined to expand its aircraft displays, as well as a display of squadron photographs and historic squadron memorabilia. The evening began with a Bypass by Apache, Gazelle and Auster Aircraft followed by an enthralling Apache display by WO1 Bruce Allen and Capt Rogers. The soundtrack to the evening was supplied courtesy of Rolls Royce and the AGC band. The Squadron also took the opportunity to capture a lasting memory of the event in the form of the formal photograph. This was followed by an excellent dinner that was provided by the Military Catering Corps in Wattisham Station. Once dinner was complete, various speeches were read and tales were told of the squadron’s participation in conflicts such as Bosnia, Iraq, and Afghanistan, with Capt ‘Elvis’ Costello’s contribution being particularly memorable. The final speech was given by Mr Richard Kornik CBE who is the Chairman of the Polish Air Force Memorial Committee. Once complete the squadron and guests retired to the crew room area in order to continue reminiscing about past times in the squadron as well as catching up with old friends. Overall the event was a great success and allowed those that have the chance to see how we operate today. The evening also gave the current members of the squadron the opportunity to meet and share stories with former members. The evening was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended, and I am sure we all look forward to the next Anniversary in ten years time.

FAMILIES DAY
Woodman RJ, L/Cpl, Signals Section, 663 Sqn
663 Sqn 3 Regt AAC held a families day on Thursday 31st July 2014 in preparation for the deployment of 16 squadron personnel to Operation Herrick as additional arming teams supporting 662 Squadron. The day was celebrated by members of 663 Squadron, the 663 REME detachment and their families. The day hosted a range of events from military stands inside and outside the hangar, as well as a variety of civilian displays. There was even room for a bouncy castle that was used enthusiastically by the children who attended. The base member of the family was on hand to deliver several fantastic displays during the day.

The food was excellent and ensured that nobody went hungry. It was widely agreed that the chefs out did themselves with a huge BBQ consisting of, sausages, chicken, steaks and burgers, as well as a selection of salad.

Inside the hangar was a hive of activity. The squadron had set up a variety of stands for the families to enjoy, the aim of the stands was to inform the various visitors what their loved ones get up to in the Army Air Corps. The Ground Control Flight set out a magnificent display of all the weaponry available to an Apache. The signals section had a basic command post set up showing how a busy ops room would look out in the field. The REME and the RAF Survival Section also offered visitors a chance to experience the different type of equipment that they use to help support the squadron’s operations.

There was also several charity stands included in an effort to help raise money for Help for Heroes and Child Bereavement UK, as well as the welfare office on hand to advise and help families of those deploying. All in all the day was fun and provided a great insight for family members of the squadron group into exactly what their loved ones get up to.

POLISH DINNER NIGHT
AirTrooper Caddy
The squadron has maintained a rich Polish heritage since its inception in Italy in August 1944. We have been located in northern Italy on 14 August 1944, as an Air Observation Post (AOP) unit, it was manned by Polish officers and men with the objective to spot for allied artillery units located in that war zone. As such we commemorate our ties with our army and Polish surviving veterans. At the event we travelled to the Latvian War Museum in London, followed by a formal meal at the Polish Institute and a trip to the RAF museum in London.

On the Sunday we enjoyed a luxurious three course meal, followed by toasts from members leaving the squadron and those who are no longer among us. Following a few readings, a few of our newest members in the squadron volunteered to research into the history of 663 and read some pertinent points. Celebrations carried on late into the evening, where many people proceeded to London’s finest attractions, and the remainder of us heading back to Wattisham airfield in the coach.

A special day for everyone and a day that each of the members who have worked in the squadron enjoyed the trip to London. It gave me the chance to get to know the people I work with, and to see how the outside world perceives the environment and also gave me the opportunity to learn more about the history and foundations of the squadron.
3 REGIMENT ARMY AIR CORPS

The Army Air Corps Attack Helicopter Display Team put on an excellent display to thousands of onlookers at the Royal International Air Tattoo at RAF Fairford in July, with the Apache becoming one of the most talked about displays.

The team from 3 Regiment Army Air Corps, based at Wattisham, put on a display including pyrotechnic explosions to simulate gunfire and rockets used by the Apache when on operations. This added impact and awe to the flying display.

The scenario followed a typical sortie in support of ground troops in Afghanistan, with real rockets used by the Apache, leaving the spectators with one of the best photo opportunities of the weekend.

Team manager Capt Jim Trayburn said: "We are bigger and better this year and hope to wow the crowd with a pyrotechnic display. We take the aircraft to its limits to show the public the capability of the aircraft, this allows them to get a flavour for what we are doing when on operations.”

On the subject of summer leave, continued instability in the Middle East has focused the attention of Defence planners and an extremely volatile humanitarian crisis in northern Iraq in August, in particular, prompted the cancellation of some leave for those of us held at very high readiness. The headlines from a capability perspective were great and we managed to return all the people we needed to Wattisham with minimal fuss, a testament to the considerable hard work that has gone into creating this level of ‘readiness’. Sadly though, on this occasion, it proved to be a little bit of an ‘on the bus – off the bus’ event and involved significant pain in terms of lost leave for numerous people (and families) for no actual deployment. Given continued flux in a number of hotspots in Afghanistan, we may be asked for more leave in the future.

Auster capped off a thoroughly dignified and successful parade. A Families’ day followed it and a party held in the evening saw the Squadron off in great style. On the sporting front we have had some notable recent success. A contingent of AAC female soldiers, including our own A/Flt Carter and Kerr, took part in the Nijmegen March (a very arduous physical test over a 100 mile course) and won the Best Military Team award. The Regimental Signals Officer, Capt Matt Kent, won the Best Veteran award at the Army Triathlon Championships and, at a slightly more sedate pace, our golfers shone in a Corps level competition and the ATIL Cup.

My congratulations to them all; the opportunity to take part in sport and adventurous training must remain a crucial part in what the Army offers.

3 months downstream from when I last wrote for The Eagle and a great deal has happened! In short, the Regiment finished its operational rotations through Afghanistan, 654 Sqn was disbanded, following a great send off parade, and summer leave has been and gone.

O n the subject of summer leave, continued instability in the Middle East has focused the attention of Defence planners and an extremely volatile humanitarian crisis in northern Iraq in August, in particular, prompted the cancellation of some leave for those of us held at very high readiness. The headlines from a capability perspective were great and we managed to return all the people we needed to Wattisham with minimal fuss, a testament to the considerable hard work that has gone into creating this level of ‘readiness’. Sadly though, on this occasion, it proved to be a little bit of an ‘on the bus – off the bus’ event and involved significant pain in terms of lost leave for numerous people (and families) for no actual deployment. Given continued flux in a number of hotspots in Afghanistan, we may be asked for more leave in the future.

Auster capped off a thoroughly dignified and successful parade. A Families’ day followed it and a party held in the evening saw the Squadron off in great style. On the sporting front we have had some notable recent success. A contingent of AAC female soldiers, including our own A/Flt Carter and Kerr, took part in the Nijmegen March (a very arduous physical test over a 100 mile course) and won the Best Military Team award. The Regimental Signals Officer, Capt Matt Kent, won the Best Veteran award at the Army Triathlon Championships and, at a slightly more sedate pace, our golfers shone in a Corps level competition and the ATIL Cup.

My congratulations to them all; the opportunity to take part in sport and adventurous training must remain a crucial part in what the Army offers.

654 Sqn’s disbandment parade was certainly a highlight in the last 3 months and one that prompted the mixed emotions – both sadness and pride. The weather held, despite threatening, the standard of drill was widely praised (I even managed to just about hang onto my voice and avoided falling over!) and a fly-past of former helicopter types and a vintage 4 REGIMENT ARMY AIR CORPS

3 REGIMENT ARMY AIR CORPS

Commanding Officer: Lt Col C Bisset MBE AAC
Second in Command: Maj D Goodacre AAC
Adjutant: Capt DP Mills AAC
Regimental Sergeant Major: WO1 (RSM) S Elliott

WATTISHAM HALL

HOLIDAY COTTAGES

Wattisham Hall Holiday Cottages Award-winning, charming hamlet conversion within an ancient moat and tranquil countryside. Cottages are beautifully furnished, having exposed beams, oak floors and plenty of character. Shared games room and outdoor play area. Private hot tubs in all 3 properties.

Three Cottages sleeping 8, 7 and 4 people

Prices from: £350 - £1000 per week

Contact

Mrs Jo Squirrell

Wattisham Hall, The Green, Wattisham, Ipswich, IP6 0JB

T: 01449 740240
E: jhsquirrell@farming.co.uk
W: www.wattishamhall.co.uk

www.BirdsTackle.com

• Pike Fishing • Sea Fishing
• Airguns, pistols and pellets
• Shotgun cartridges • Coal • Bee • Salt
• Vermin Control • Bird Food

OPENING TIMES:
Mon to Sat 8.30am to 6pm Sun 9.30am to 4pm

Plenty of parking, with 5000 sq ft of shop.
All major brand names in stock including Nash, Shimano, Preston, Karum, Daiwa, Fox, Korda, Mainline etc.

Ask about our in store loyalty scheme

Birds Tackle, The Coal Yard, Gipping Road, Gr Blakeham, Ipswich, IP6 0JB
For all enquiries please call 01473 830683

www.birdstackle.com
54 Squadron’s final Adventurous Training exercise to commemorate the History of the Squadron in Italy, prior to disbandment.

We arrived at 654 Sqn hangar at Wattisham station ready to set off on our Adventurous Training week of Via Ferrata, Rock Climbing, Trekking and Mountain Biking in Italy. Many hours later we arrived at Cortina, Italy and found a suitable area in Campsite Olympia to set up our tents. Once the pegs had finally got into the hard ground and the camp set up for the next two weeks, it was shower and bed for the group.

The first day of activities, started with a kit issue and introduction to climbing the two groups set off, one on the mountain bikes and the other on foot to arrive at an easy Via Ferrata route so everyone could gain confidence in the equipment issued to them. The route was known as Cascata de Fanes, which involved walking under a powerful waterfall while clipped to the wire bolted to the rock face. The full route was not accessible due to storm and snow damage to the bridges so both groups returned to the campsite for a BBQ down by the river.

The following day, two Via Ferrata groups set off along the forestry road to climb to the top of Col Rosa (2166m). We knew this route was going to be hard, the sun was shining and everyone was up for the challenge. The total height gain was 900m and the climbs got harder each time and a little scarier but the sense of achievement at the top was enough to spur everybody on.

Each day the groups rotated so the group on mountain biking were usually back to camp slightly earlier than the climbers and were normally asleep looking like they had had a hard days riding. Some of the downhill routes where death defying and with just a few minor scrapes and bruises nobody was injured and everyone enjoyed it. They also helped the Chef collect the food from Cortina to prepare for the evening meal.

Throughout the two weeks, 654 Sqn bagged five peaks above 2000m. The highest was Piccolo Lagazuoi (2780m). All involved vertical climbs and we learnt short roping techniques to cross snow covered gullies and used safety ropes to get to steep and exposed ledges. Col dei Bes (2559m) and Piccolo Lagazuoi had lots of history from the First World War. We explored trench systems, observation posts and walked through the tunnels. Each group also spent a few hours in the Museum at the Falzegro Pass.

After breakfast on the Friday morning all the kit was handed back in and the drive down to Rome began. We met up with the second 654 Sqn group who had flown out to start their week of Adventurous Training. After everyone had checked into the hotel we all went out for a sociable drink. The next day we had the morning off to go and see Rome, some went to see the Vatican City, some to Roma football stadium and some to the Coliseum. At 1400hrs we met back up and drove down to Monte Casino for the battlefield tour. After a brief introduction into the history of the battle, we went out to have a look at the ground where it all took place. An evening meal was shortly followed in the local town and off to watch England v Italy in the World Cup match.

The next day we climbed to have a look at the lay of the land where it took place and understand how 654 Sqn supported the Polish at the time. We saw the Maid of Warsaw carved into the stone at the Polish cemetery and we paid our respects there and when we visited the British cemetery. Everyone walked around the gravestones looking for someone with the same name but the cemetery was so vast it wasn’t an easy task. It was time for the first group to leave Italy and fly back home and the second group drove north to enjoy a week in the Italian mountains. Everyone said it was the best AT they had ever done and hope to do it again.
The disbandment of 654 Squadron was marked with a parade at Wattisham Flying Station on 8 July 14.

Whilst it was with great sadness that we were to lose the Squadron, the parade provided the perfect opportunity to take the time to remember and celebrate the accumulated history and achievements of those that had served before us. It featured music from The Band of The Parachute Regiment, and a flypast by Auster, Gazelle, Lynx and Apache attack helicopters. The flypast highlighted a selection of the seven types of aircraft which have seen active service throughout 71 years of the Squadron’s history in North Africa and Italy during WW2 and more recently Iraq, Bosnia and Afghanistan. Since 2008, the Squadron has served 4 tours of Afghanistan returning most recently in February 2014. Over this time 654 delivered an immense contribution to stabilising the country having flown an estimated 9,500 operational flying hours and conducted in the order of 250 deliberate operations, 1,500 high readiness call outs to troops needing urgent assistance or casualty evacuations and 2,500 routine tasks. The parade also saw 10 members of the squadron presented with Operational Service Medals by General Sir Adrian Bradshaw KCB OBE, NATO’s Deputy Supreme Allied Commander Europe and Colonel Commandant of the Army Air Corps. A particularly proud moment, shared with many family and friends. It also marked the end of 4 Regiment’s involvement in Afghanistan which was particularly significant as 664 Squadron had returned to the UK the previous week. As to the future, 654 Squadron’s badge and number will be placed on the suspended list to join 655 Squadron to be used again when another Squadron is raised. Most of the Squadron members will remain with the Apache Force while some are posted on to meet new challenges.

Beautiful new homes in a special Suffolk village
An attractive, well-served location that also promises the pleasures of real community life, quality local produce, delightful country walks and more – that’s Stanton. Situated on the A143 approximately midway between Diss and Bury St Edmunds (about nine miles north west and south east respectively), Stanton is bucking the national decline of village amenities and lifestyle by supporting its local shops and services. Mill View, in offering a choice of stylish 2, 3 and 4 bedroom houses, will further strengthen Stanton’s balanced community and future prosperity. The village lies close to the former RAF base at Shepherd’s Grove, where American forces were based, and is also known for its fine restored windmill and site of a Roman villa, known as Stanton Chare. Our development lies on the eastern fringe of the village, adjacent to agricultural land. Stanton’s shops include a Post Office/newsagents, country store and garden centre, fish and chip shop, and hairdressers. The village also has a health centre and two GP surgeries, a primary school and mobile library service. West Suffolk Hospital is approximately 12 miles away in Bury St Edmunds. The recently-improved village hall, set on a large recreation ground, is the meeting point for many special-interest groups, including Sainsbury’s. Its Waterworld leisure centre, and Thetford Forest – with its cycle routes, high ropes course and outdoor concerts – are year round destinations.
On 24th July 2014 a selection of personnel from 73 Aviation Company (Parachute) set off from Colchester to London to help in the Starlight Summer BB. The event was organised by the Starlight Children’s Foundation, a charity that brightened the lives of seriously and terminally ill children by providing fun and entertainment for children and their families. This particular event was a five day out in the country, held at Belmont Farm, for children from across London.

Shortly after setting up, the families started making their way over to our stands where Cfn Winstanley and Cpl Jago talked through a plethora of different weapon systems that we had brought along. This was a big hit with the kids and surprisingly some of the children knew the names and the drills of the weapons before even being shown! They also had an opportunity to climb aboard a Apache, which will go on to become a Families Day in order to showcase to our soldiers and their families. The event will also be showing various weapon systems that we have on display including a Apache Attack Helicopter’s roles and such incidents are treated with great compassion. Members of the group are all volunteers, training is given in different search techniques and where required individuals will be trained to load small teams of searchers or as experience grows be a search manager. Training is carried out twice a month in various locations across Suffolk, culminating in a large weekend exercise in late summer. There are different types of teams that can be deployed, such as foot teams and dog search teams. As a volunteer organisation much of the equipment is bought through fundraising events such as sponsorship through individual effort or commercial means. The group are always looking for new volunteers, so if you feel like doing some good for the local community this may be for you or details for the group can be found at www.sulsar.org.uk.

STARLIGHT SUMMER PARTY

Scribe: Cfn Winstanley

On 24th July 2014 a selection of personnel from 73 Aviation Company (Parachute) set off from Colchester to London to help in the Starlight Summer BB. The event was organised by the Starlight Children’s Foundation, a charity that brightened the lives of seriously and terminally ill children by providing fun and entertainment for children and their families. This particular event was a five day out in the country, held at Belmont Farm, for children from across London.

Shortly after setting up, the families started making their way over to our stands where Cfn Winstanley and Cpl Jago talked through a plethora of different weapon systems that we had brought along. This was a big hit with the kids and surprisingly some of the children knew the names and the drills of the weapons before even being shown! They also had an opportunity to climb aboard a Apache, which will go on to become a Families Day in order to showcase

71 AVIATION COMPANY

Lcpl Kelly

WWI READINGS FOR BBC RADIO SUFFOLK

As part of the centenary celebrations and remembrance events for the First World War, Lcpl's Kelly, Davis and Steedman from 71 Avn Coy, 7 AA Bn REME were guest readers at Necastle Gateside, including the upcoming Bonfire Night, which is always very popular with locals. Once again, if you’re reading this as a dependent or a member of our local community, thanks for your support.

73 AVN COY – COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Scribes: Sgt Wray and Cpl Perret

73 Aviation Company has had a very busy and productive period, whilst the Coy continue supporting high-readiness taskings and act as the Battalion’s main contingency force in conjunction with planning the move to RNAS Yeovilton, the Coy has still managed to engage with the local community. Community Engagement is about connecting with the Apache! The day full of such different people as possible and with as many different portions of the community as possible, it does not take long to see that we all want the same thing – for our children to have as many different places to live. As a Coy we have several individuals involved with standing projects: Sgt Wray offers his space time to act as an Adult Cadet Volunteer; WO3 (ASM) Hueck acts as a search and rescue with Sulfar; Sgt Fleming acts as a mentor through the Catch 22 project; and, finally, Lcpl Metalf helps teach and train young children in Martial Arts!

73 AVN COY – COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Scribes: Sgt Wray and Cpl Perret

73 Aviation Company has had a very busy and productive period, whilst the Coy continue supporting high-readiness taskings and act as the Battalion’s main contingency force in conjunction with planning the move to RNAS Yeovilton, the Coy has still managed to engage with the local community. Community Engagement is about connecting with the Apache! The day full of such different people as possible and with as many different portions of the community as possible, it does not take long to see that we all want the same thing – for our children to have as many different places to live. As a Coy we have several individuals involved with standing projects: Sgt Wray offers his space time to act as an Adult Cadet Volunteer; WO3 (ASM) Hueck acts as a search and rescue with Sulfar; Sgt Fleming acts as a mentor through the Catch 22 project; and, finally, Lcpl Metalf helps teach and train young children in Martial Arts!
Cpl Orchard At Brize At Move

7 AIR ASSAULT BATTALION REME

met up at Wattisham at 0730 hrs

WO2 Dave Luke (AAC). The group

administrated by the two drivers,

experience). The expedition was

administered by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,

administrated by the two drivers,
EX PILGRIMS CHOICE 2
A SUPPLIERS PERSPECTIVE

By Cpl Jellis

132 Squadron’s CT1 exercise comprised of a two day Technical Exercise followed by a three day “back to basics” Exercise.

The First Stage of 132 Aviation Supply Squadron’s exercise was a two day Technical Training Exercise, the exercise was split between four areas to give more realism to the exercise, the main location called ASG was situated at STANTA Training Area next to HQ with Neutral Org, 500 metres down the road from ASG was LSD1 and 45 minutes down the road back in Wattisham Airfield was LSD2. Throughout the two day exercise certain scenarios were presented to all locations for them to deal with but with the absence of IT Support everything was done manually (a process not all were confident on).

This part of exercise did not only test the ability of the Suppliers within 132 but also the MT Dept who were put through their paces with regular convoys between each location to test their ability to drive in different conditions and at night.

After all Technical aspects of the exercise was packed away, it was time to get serious. All of the 5qn was placed into new sections for the next stage of the exercise. Our first orders brief of the exercise was to patrol from our location to an FRV four kilometres away and then set up a harbour location. After orders we had a few rehearsals and then waited for H hour to come. As H Hour approached the weather was spot on, no clouds and only sunshine. We set of with morale sky high and proceed to patrol to our objective. No sooner had we set off that the heavens opened as we looked up in disbelief we noticed that to the front, back, left and right of us was blue skies but straight above us was a black rain cloud. We assumed the 2IC Capt Swift and SSgt Beddow had ordered it to attempt and dampen our morale but to no luck, everyone was drenched but morale was still sky high.

As we reached our objective we set up our harbour location and soon settled into a routine. The following two days would test the ability of all soldiers within 132 5qn with Recce Patrols and a Fighting Patrol, not only was it four skills and drills being tested here it was also their ability to navigate and there own personal administration in the field. Also there came the change of command appointments to test certain individuals.

As the last day approached morale was still as high as it had been on the first patrol out to the harbour location, but just as everyone thought it was just about over the Training team threw in a few more surprises. Firstly just as ‘Stand To’ had finished, smoke started to appear from nowhere so we donned our respirators and waited for the all clear still with smiles on our faces. When the all clear was given we were instructed to gather all our gear and tab four miles down the road to the road to get picked up. Just as the order had come through a lot of smiles vanished into thin air, we placed our bergans on our backs with the rest of our kit on, carrying water jerry cans and rubbish bags from inside the harbour location. Just as we reached a main road another order came through the radio to ignore last co-ordinates and head straight to HQ, lucky for us HQ was just in the next wood line from where our harbour location had been. The smiles still didn't return though, after trekking through the long grass to HQ we finally came to end of the exercise where we were greeted by the best sight anyone can see on exercise a white van with bacon, sausage, egg, beans and hash browns in the back.
Blotted – Bob have you written an article for the Eagle yet?

Bob thinks – 8 months left of Search and Rescue at Wattisham and I really thought I was going to get away with that. However I have been on B Flt for 8 yrs!!

h well. Therefore, I am going to take this as an opportunity to introduce myself as I have just moved into married quarters with my family after 8 very happy years living off base in Elmsett village – 4 miles south of Wattisham. I am looking forward to meeting many of you at Happy Hour on a Friday in the Mess, and as the tasking officer on the Flt will be happy to show anyone who is interested in cycling on the continent is almost as good as cycle racing, but much busier than it had been on previous trips but this did not deter anyone. The families were given complimentary tickets to Adventure Island. The Sea Life centre and lunch at the onsite facilities. The hospitality received from the owners of the Adventure Island is as always extremely generous. Everyone that went had a really good day finishing with the on coach entertainment ‘The Croods’. Both of the trips fortunately had good weather and thoroughly enjoyed by all that attended. The next two trips are fast approaching:

• Natural History Museum – Saturday 20th September
• The Lion King – Saturday 18th October

There will also be a homcoming briefing towards the end of the deployment, as the details are known will be sent out.

HIVE
The HIVE has local information on groups, activities and general advice. This is ideal if you are new to the area and require information on doctor’s surgeries, bus routes or general days out. Lisa is available on 01449 728323 (Wattisham – Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri) and 01473 828995 (Hadleigh - Wed).

Welfare
We are here should you require information, assistance or you simply want to chat, then do not hesitate to call us. We work to support your welfare needs and will ensure any issues or concerns you have are dealt with in the strictest of confidence.

Useful Contacts

- Housing Allocation
  - Service Centre (HASC)
    - Telephone: 0800 169 6322
    - Option 7 (Area 7)
- Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO):
  - https://www.gov.uk/defence-infrastructure-organisation
- Agility removals:
- Wattisham Community Welfare Centre:
  - 0500 - 1100 on Tues and 1330 – 1500 on Thurs
- Hadleigh House / Hive: 14 Leeks Close open
  - 9am – 3pm on Weds
- Toy sale raises £110 for Help For Heroes
  - Three daughters of a soldier deployed on Operations in Afghanistan decided upon themselves to have a toy sale to raise money for Help for Heroes to ‘help poorly soldiers’. Arena (10), Freya (8) and Emily (5) sat outside their house for 4 hours and managed to raise a whopping £110.00 for Help for Heroes. Their father WO2 Jamie Boakes, who is deployed with 662 Squadron AAC was said to be delighted with the news that his children were so considerate of others in need.

Deployed Personnel Welfare Trips
This has been a busy period for the unit welfare department augmented by the tempo of the unit with exercises and deployments. That said 662 Squadron group have settled well in to their routines on Operations, many of you will have received the first Newsletter. The families and loved ones have been on two welfare trips, the first of which was to London Zoo on the 15th July. This was a really enjoyable day out for the families that spent the day in the Zoo enjoying the good weather. The day started with a coach pickup at Wattisham and then Hadleigh and a film on the coach ‘Madagascar’ to get the kids in to the spirit of the Zoo, you could tell that anticipation had been building up for the children for many weeks prior to this event. On the way home we all had a really good day finishing with the on coach entertainment ‘The Croods’. Both of the trips fortunately had good weather and thoroughly enjoyed by all that attended. The next two trips are fast approaching:

• Natural History Museum – Saturday 20th September
• The Lion King – Saturday 18th October

There will also be a homcoming briefing towards the end of the deployment, as the details are known will be sent out.

HIVE
The HIVE has local information on groups, activities and general advice. This is ideal if you are new to the area and require information on doctor’s surgeries, bus routes or general days out. Lisa is available on 01449 728323 (Wattisham – Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri) and 01473 828995 (Hadleigh - Wed).

Coffee Mornings
This is a fantastic way to socialize and meet new people, which can be a catalyst to find out about local groups and activities.

• Wattisham Community Centre: 0500 - 1100 on Tues and 1330 – 1500 on Thurs
• Hadleigh House / Hive: 14 Leeks Close
  - 9am – 3pm on Weds

TOY SALE RAISES £110 FOR HELP FOR HEROES

Three daughters of a soldier deployed on Operations in Afghanistan decided upon themselves to have a toy sale to raise money for Help for Heroes to ‘help poorly soldiers’. Arena (10), Freya (8) and Emily (5) sat outside their house for 4 hours and managed to raise a whopping £110.00 for Help for Heroes. Their father WO2 Jamie Boakes, who is deployed with 662 Squadron AAC was said to be delighted with the news that his children were so considerate of others in need.

We are here should you require information, assistance or you simply want to chat, then do not hesitate to call us. We work to support your welfare needs and will ensure any issues or concerns you have are dealt with in the strictest of confidence.

Welfare Contact Details
Office Tel:
01449 728323

Emergency other than
999 services:
01449 728323 (Guard Room)

E-mail:
aac3_welfare@hotmail.com

Twitter: @AACWelfare

Facebook:
Threeaac Welfare Officer
4 REGIMENT ARMY AIR CORPS

Whilst most of you were away visiting family and friends over the summer period or maybe taking a trip abroad to sunnier climates, we managed to squeeze in one last trip for our soldiers and their families who have recently returned from tour.

A nice sunny August Wednesday, saw us take our families for a day down Southend-On-Sea.

The day was a mixture of activities for the families. Some enjoyed building sandcastles and eating ice cream down on the beach, while others headed for the main rides at Adventure Island. From the ride “Tidal Wave Blue” which saw some of our families getting wet, to “Rage” and “Sky Drop” which got some blood pressures rising high. Everyone seemed to enjoy those thrill seeking rides.

Our younger members enjoyed the “Choo Choo Train” along with the “Flying Jumbo” which took them high into the sky. It was great seeing so many smiling faces around.

On arrival, the kids amongst them made a beeline to the inflatable bouncy castles, assault course and bunges run closely followed by Shaun the rodeo sheep.

The Slippery and Slimy by Shaun the rodeo sheep.

Thoroughly tested (for H&S) by the Unit Welfare Officer, the Donkey rides were extremely popular with the younger generation. The donkeys continually doing the rounds for more than the two hours they were booked for.

A big thank you to Ruth Herrington who tirelessly painted and tattooed for over 40 minutes. However, everyone did manage to be painted or tattooed with the design of their choice.

Thank you to Jess Garrard and The Robins Children’s Centre for providing a soft play and a quiet area for the tiny ones to relax.

The next age group had immense fun on the small fun fair ride with many going round and round and round. So much so it made my head spin watching them!

As with all these events the food was a big hit and there was plenty – a big thank you to the Master Chef, SSGt Lyons and his team. There’s not many places that offer so much entertainment, good food and fun all for a pound!!

SSAFA In-service volunteers, our local community charity, offered to sell tea, coffee, squash and cakes, which raised just over £100 which is kindly being donated back to the Battalion after a request from the LAD’s centre.

The CO also donated his ‘seat of power’ for a day which was raffled off with the proceeds also going to SSAFA In-service volunteers. This raised £104.17 with the winner being SSgt Payne who will take command of the Battalion for the day before Christmas

All in all it was a fantastic day which was enjoyed by many and seemed long overdue. We would like to thank all those that helped organise and provided activities on the day, without them these events would not be possible. For those that missed this opportunity or those that would like to do it all again, it has been decided to run a similar Families Day event with all the inflatables on the 9 October 2014, 1100 – 1500 hrs. Yes I hear you say, the weather will be turning a bit colder at that time of year! So this one will be held within hangar 5. Please invite your family and come along to support the Battalion you will not be disappointed – more details to follow.

Future Events for your Diary

• 05 November 14 – Station Health Fair 1000-1400 Hrs in the Station Gym
• 08 October 14 – Unit Health Fair 1000-1400 hrs in the Station Gym
• 09 October 14 – 7AA Hrs in the Station Gym
• 09 November 14 – Station Bonfire and fireworks on the Station Airfield

As always for more details please contact the Welfare Office on 01449 728721

Welfare Contact Details

Welfare Office: 01449 728721
Welfare Duty Mob: 07799886425

Welfare Contact Details

Email: Welfare_house@hotmail.co.uk
Office Tel: 01449 728421
Emergency Tel: 01449 728220 (24hrs)

Inspiring all to a lifelong love of learning!

St Mary’s CEVA Primary School
Telephone: 01473 823268 Fax: 01473 822777
Website: www.stmaryshad.co.uk Headteacher: Mr A. Frolish

We invite you to visit our friendly, welcoming school to see how we develop children into successful learners and caring members of the community. Please contact the office to find out more about our school or arrange a visit.

St Mary’s Church of England Primary School is a vibrant, Christian school, in which all children achieve well and are inspired to a lifelong love of learning!
Being Resilient

R

September 4th saw the 75th anniversary of the first bombing raid of the second world war, delivered by Blenheim bombers from RAF Wattisham in 1939.

We had only just been declared the day before when ground cases spent time fitting modifications, and other personnel with defined duties made sure they were ready for action. Everybody was confined to camp, and gas masks were issued. Bomber Command HQ ordered 2 Group to prepare 27 Blenheims for raids on enemy shipping, including 107 and 110 Squadrons, Wattisham. Lead by Wing Commander Basil Embry, Five aircraft from both squadrons took off to find heavy rain, with cloud, almost down to sea level. Landfall was made at Heligoland as planned, and a turn was made to the Schilling Roads, where lay the German pocket battleship the Admiral Scheer. The ship’s crew were taken by surprise when at least two 500lb bombs were seen to hit the ship. One of the Blenheims was lost on this mission with its crew. These bombs, dropped by 310 Spn were the first dropped in anger during the second world war. 107 Spn followed 110 into the target a few minutes later, but only one of the five aircraft dispatched from 107 returned safely. One of them crashed on to the deck of the German battleship, Emden. Two of the crew became the first Prisoners of War of WW2. For his leadership of the mission Wing Commander Embry received the first decoration of WW2, the DFC. At 33-00, on the 4th September 2014, Wattisham Station Heritage Museum members, gathered at the Wattisham WW2 memorial in Ringhall to remember those who lost their lives in the raid, and to lay a wreath.

HERITAGE CORNER

Testimonials

September 4th saw the 75th anniversary of the first bombing raid of the second world war, delivered by Blenheim bombers from RAF Wattisham in 1939. We had only just been declared the day before when ground cases spent time fitting modifications, and other personnel with defined duties made sure they were ready for action. Everybody was confined to camp, and gas masks were issued. Bomber Command HQ ordered 2 Group to prepare 27 Blenheims for raids on enemy shipping, including 107 and 110 Squadrons, Wattisham. Lead by Wing Commander Basil Embry, Five aircraft from both squadrons took off to find heavy rain, with cloud, almost down to sea level. Landfall was made at Heligoland as planned, and a turn was made to the Schilling Roads, where lay the German pocket battleship the Admiral Scheer. The ship’s crew were taken by surprise when at least two 500lb bombs were seen to hit the ship. One of the Blenheims was lost on this mission with its crew. These bombs, dropped by 310 Spn were the first dropped in anger during the second world war. 107 Spn followed 110 into the target a few minutes later, but only one of the five aircraft dispatched from 107 returned safely. One of them crashed on to the deck of the German battleship, Emden. Two of the crew became the first Prisoners of War of WW2. For his leadership of the mission Wing Commander Embry received the first decoration of WW2, the DFC. At 33-00, on the 4th September 2014, Wattisham Station Heritage Museum members, gathered at the Wattisham WW2 memorial in Ringhall to remember those who lost their lives in the raid, and to lay a wreath.

HERITAGE CORNER

September 4th saw the 75th anniversary of the first bombing raid of the second world war, delivered by Blenheim bombers from RAF Wattisham in 1939. We had only just been declared the day before when ground cases spent time fitting modifications, and other personnel with defined duties made sure they were ready for action. Everybody was confined to camp, and gas masks were issued. Bomber Command HQ ordered 2 Group to prepare 27 Blenheims for raids on enemy shipping, including 107 and 110 Squadrons, Wattisham. Lead by Wing Commander Basil Embry, Five aircraft from both squadrons took off to find heavy rain, with cloud, almost down to sea level. Landfall was made at Heligoland as planned, and a turn was made to the Schilling Roads, where lay the German pocket battleship the Admiral Scheer. The ship’s crew were taken by surprise when at least two 500lb bombs were seen to hit the ship. One of the Blenheims was lost on this mission with its crew. These bombs, dropped by 310 Spn were the first dropped in anger during the second world war. 107 Spn followed 110 into the target a few minutes later, but only one of the five aircraft dispatched from 107 returned safely. One of them crashed on to the deck of the German battleship, Emden. Two of the crew became the first Prisoners of War of WW2. For his leadership of the mission Wing Commander Embry received the first decoration of WW2, the DFC. At 33-00, on the 4th September 2014, Wattisham Station Heritage Museum members, gathered at the Wattisham WW2 memorial in Ringhall to remember those who lost their lives in the raid, and to lay a wreath.
There has been a change in personnel at Needham since my last article. PCSO Vinnie Whitrow has moved onto pastures new since my last article. PCSO Vinnie Needham Market has been replaced by PCSO Colette Whitrow has moved onto pastures new. PCSO Vinnie Needham Market has been replaced by PCSO Colette Whitrow has moved onto pastures new.

I am a valuable member of their team. I am specifically responsible for 9 villages which include Wattisham (housing outside the wire) and St Briecett. Many of you may be aware of this from 1 October this year, Tax Discs will no longer be issued by the DVLA. The service will cease to issue vehicle tax disc and will be replaced by an electronic system.

If you are buying or selling a car you must note the following: If you buy a used car the tax will not transfer with the vehicle. You must register the car online before using it and pay for the road tax. If you are selling a used car you must inform DVLA you are no longer the keeper or you can be fined £1,000. The DVLA will then refund you any ‘whole calendar months’ payment.

The DVLA will also immediately tell the officer if the vehicle MOT or insurance is not valid. There is no ‘grace’ period for Insurance, Tax or MOT. Stay legal and safe.

If you have any information or would like any advice on parental matters. Our contact telephone number is 101. Please remember that there are occasions when we are on rest days for 4 days so if your call is of an urgent nature please ask to speak to an officer on duty.

If your call is urgent and you need immediate assistance, always dial 999. Our e-mail address is mid Suffolk.suffolk.pnn.police.uk

We now have fully settled into the building and children are taking full advantage of the new facilities and resources available to them. On Wednesday 3rd September we had the pleasure to welcome Major General Armstrong DIO to our wonderful childcare centre. On behalf of all of the staff and children at Wattisham Airfield Childcare Centre, we would like to take this opportunity to thank all the people involved in planning, building and processing the childcare centre to allow this new facility to be open to the local community.

We are very competitively priced with other nurseries within the area and are flexible to try other nurseries within the area and are flexible to try other nurseries within the area. Many of you may be aware of this from 1 October this year, Tax Discs will no longer be issued by the DVLA. The service will cease to issue vehicle tax disc and will be replaced by an electronic system.

If you would like any more information please feel free to come in to see us or call us for more information as spaces are limited.

An owner of an untaxed vehicle used on the road can be fined £80 plus back tax. The good news is that you can pay monthly by direct debit for your road tax. The payments will be taken from your account every month as long as you have a current MOT. It does mean you will need to make sure your vehicle is MOT’d before or on the date due. Vehicles must still be SORN when not being used on the road and have no current tax. Automatic Number Plate Recognition cameras (ANPR for short) will register any vehicles not taxed and will notify not only DVLA but also the local police for the area. ANPR cameras are EVERYWHERE! So don’t take the risk.

It also means that Police Officers will now have to complete PNC checks on vehicles to check they are taxed if they find them parked up somewhere. This will also immediately tell the officer if the vehicle MOT or insurance is not valid. There is no ‘grace’ period for Insurance, Tax or MOT. Stay legal and get to spend your hard earned cash on what you want and not on fines!

There are also changes afoot for the ‘paper licences’ as they are being axed in January 2015. If you have any issues or just want a chat, please give us a ring. Remember… Everyone makes mistakes. The trick is to make mistakes when nobody is looking… be safe.

If your call is urgent and you need immediate assistance, always dial 999. Our e-mail address is mid Suffolk.suffolk.pnn.police.uk

Wattisham Airfield Childcare Centre is a purpose built nursery that opened in January 2014. We cater for children aged 3 months to the age of 10 years old.

My role is to provide independent, non military welfare support and a relaxed, informal alcohol free leisure facility for the soldiers based here. I have been a SOW for just over 5yrs and have worked with several different regiments both in the UK and abroad, including Phase 1 and 2 recruits.

I can be found in the Herrick Club which is located above the Bar, opposite the gym. The facilities available include Sky TV, including movies and sports channels, table tennis, snooker, pool, free DVD hire, X-Box 360, guitars, computers with printer/scanner and free Wi-Fi.

Good luck with the new Tax Disc System and remember… Everyone makes mistakes. The trick is to make mistakes when nobody is looking… be safe.

Looking for that special gift? Looking to learn how to fly? Then try one of our trial flights! Open 7 days a week.

Contact us on 01787 223676
Or visit us at www.anglianflightcentres.co.uk

WRVS SERVICES WELFARE

Hello, my name is Shirley Gartshore and I am the new Services Welfare Officer for Wattisham Station WRVS.

As a microwave/grill and toaster for use in the well equipped kitchen area. Together, with the centre users, several events are being organised, including pool, snooker and table tennis tournaments, as well as informal music and photography sessions during the evenings.

My current opening hours are 10.00-13.30 and 18.30-22.00 Monday to Thursday, 10.00-1400 Friday and 18.00-22.00 Sunday.

This is a bright, modern centre with excellent FREE facilities for the soldiers, so feel free to pop in and say hello any time and enjoy a beer and a bite to eat.

Looking forward to seeing you soon.

Tel: 01787 223676
Email: anglianflightcentres@hotmail.co.uk

Anglian Flight Centre

Mid Suffolk South SNT
33 High Street
Needham Market
IP6 8DL
Located on Ipswich’s Waterfront, Isaacs on the Quay offers a perfect location for your wedding day. Views of the waterfront and historic indoor features, make for stunning photographs. Isaacs on the Quay is a venue that will make your guests feel relaxed and enjoy your special day. Isaacs on the Quay is a venue that is unique to you, from the Ceremony Room to the Reception Rooms, all are filled with unique character and charisma.

With 365 days in a year, we are not just limited to weekend weddings. Talk to us about alternative dates and we will do our utmost to ensure we can accommodate you. We'd be very happy to show you round our breathtaking venue and speak to you about how we can cater for your big day, please contact us on 01473 284000 (option 2) or email weddings@isaaclord.org.

Book your Christmas Party with us, 01473 284000
7 Wherry Quay, Ipswich, Suffolk IP4 1AS 01473 259952 www.isaaclord.org

CHRISTMAS BOOKINGS NOW BEING TAKEN

£29.95 inc VAT
Christmas Menu

£10.95 inc VAT
Christmas Buffet

7 Wherry Quay, Ipswich, Suffolk IP4 1AS

Book your Christmas Party with us, 01473 284000
7 Wherry Quay, Ipswich, Suffolk IP4 1AS 01473 259952 www.isaaclord.org

Book your Christmas Party with us, 01473 284000
7 Wherry Quay, Ipswich, Suffolk IP4 1AS 01473 259952 www.isaaclord.org
The New Wolsey Theatre is the place to be this half term — with hilarious comedy for those who are 6+, a classic tale with a mouth-watering twist, and a family who could run away with the circus!

Kicking things off on SUN 26 OCTOBER is COMEDY CLUB 4 KIDS — cracking entertainment for everyone over six years old and under 400 years old (no vampires or Highlanders). We have the best comedians from the UK and world circuit doing what they do best… but without the rude bits!

Coming up next on MON 27 OCTOBER is HANSEL & GRETEL — a deliciously scary story of a tango dancing witch and her irresistible recipe for an edible house. This retelling of one of the most popular and powerful of all fairy tales is atmospheric, funny and free-spirited. Hansel and Gretel is accessible to those who are deaf, with both performances containing British Sign Language interpretation.

Bouncing in on TUE 28 & WED 29 OCTOBER we will get to meet THE HOGWALLOPS — a family who constantly bicker, scheme and play practical jokes! Every day activities are extreme, with simple tasks such as bedtime, teeth brushing needing a bungee and high level jet-spray, and dressing is a game of flying aerial wardrobe antics. With lots of laughs and acrobatic stunts that will leave the whole family entertained.

Get yourself organised this Christmas for your younger theatre lovers between WED 3 DECEMBER 2014 and SAT 3 JANUARY 2015 as Little Angel Theatre presents DOGS DON’T DO BALLET — based on the book written by Anna Kemp. Biff is not like ordinary dogs. He likes moonlight. And music. And walking on his tiptoes. You see, Biff doesn’t think he’s a dog. Biff thinks he’s a ballerina…. The sublime and the ridiculous combine in this hilarious story of a small dog with a big personality and even bigger dreams, brought to life by Little Angel Theatre using beautiful puppets, well-loved ballet music and dazzling comedy.

Visit the New Wolsey’s website to keep yourself up to date with all our family and children’s show – there’s something to entertain everyone this Autumn!
It’s been a busy few weeks for the Wattisham Military Wives Choir. We started off our new term early with a performance at the Memorial Day/Anzac Day service at Hadleigh Rugby Club in memory of Bungle.

I t was a very emotional day for all involved but it was such an honour to sing there and meet Bungle’s family. One of our members stepped up and was our acting Musical Director (MD) as we were still without after our lovely Birgitta moved on to new pastures in June. Many thanks Kitty you did a fantastic job!

Our new MD started in September. Zoe McLachlan is a music teacher hailing from Bury St Edmunds. Zoe studied Music at Cardiff University and gained her PGCE in Secondary Music at Cambridge University. She can frequently be seen at gigs and festivals with her baby son, Noah, and it was a great opportunity to get to know some of the new ladies that have just joined us. Alder Carr farm also donated fresh fruit, we have been very fortunate that the local community are behind Wattisham Station and in turn the choir.

We have our own gig coming up. October 11th at the John Peel Centre, Stowmarket. ‘An Evening with the Wattisham Military Wives Choir’ is coming round very quickly! This is our first gig organised by us, for us and it has been a mammoth task getting everything ready to go. We should be debuting some exciting material as well as the old favourites. We are being joined by the EACH Treehouse choir again who performed with us at the Combs Event in June. This is a group of parents, wider families and staff of children being cared for at the East Anglian Children’s Hospice and are led by the talented Ray Travisso. Tickets are available from the John Peel Centre and www.safeconcerts.org. We have a new members night on Tues 23rd September so feel free to come along.

You may have seen a lot about the wider Military Wives Choir community in the news recently. The Military Wives Choir Foundation were asked to provide 100 ladies for a special ‘Proms’ choir who were to sing in Prom 22: The War Horse Prom. Can’t say too much as a two part programme is out in November. This is covering the Prom and the hectic, crazy and sometimes emotional journey the ladies experienced. Imagine 100 amateur women who have never sung together -let alone in eight parts, two choirs and in Latin and trying to turn them into a confident cohesive group able to stand on stage at the Royal Albert Hall alongside professional musicians. High pressure is an understatement! Wattisham was lucky enough to have five ladies involved and it was a fantastic experience for all. More recently, the Warminster and Brompton Choirs sang at the Invictus Games Closing ceremony, which can be seen on BBC iPlayer. It’s been a tough few months with postings, husbands and partners on tour and husbands leaving the Army. As a result we are the smallest we’ve ever been leaving the Army. As a result we are the smallest we’ve ever been. As a result we are the smallest we’ve ever been.

Wattisham is fortunate that the local community are behind Wattisham Station. No auditions and a friendly atmosphere. You can find us on Facebook or email us at wattisham@milwvchoirs.org. We have a new members night on Tues 23rd September so please feel free to come along.
organised a number of daily activities for the local young people. Activities included Football coaching sessions from both Colchester United and Inspire Suffolk, both days were really well attended by young people from Wattisham, Woodbridge and Colchester; it is always nice to get the young people from the three locations mixing together. Other activities during the summer included Basketball, Rugby and Swimming. Since the departure of PC Mick from Wattisham (and his contacts at Mildenhall) I had started to book a trip to the American Airbase but this time we were lucky to find a member of staff who was willing to escort us onto the Base. The young people really enjoyed their day Bowling at Mildenhall and they particularly enjoyed the visit to Baskin & Robins for their choice of delicious ice cream! These new activities were on offer this year; visits to the Green Light Trust, the Owl Sanctuary and the Rockets session here at Wattisham. The Rocket session was run in partnership with the Mid Suffolk District Council Countryside staff, who provided all of the equipment required to make the Rockets. The young people had to use the provided equipment to design and create their own super Rocket; once they were happy with the build and design we went outside to launch the Rockets. We were all shocked how high and far these plastic bottle Rockets could fly just with a bit of water and a foot pump! The young people (and the adults!) loved the Rockets and it is something we would definitely love to do again in the future.

Our day out at the Green Light Trust was made possible by funding from the Community Covenant. The day in Forest gave our young people the chance to participate in challenging and exciting activities, where they were required to work as a team to achieve results. Activities included; Fire Lighting, Den Building, Orienteering and Woodwork. The day was rounded off nicely with toasted marshmallows over the campfire. We all had a fantastic time and can’t wait to go back!

The visit to the Owl Sanctuary at Stonham Barns was a great day out. We were treated to a guided tour of the facility and got introduced to some of the residents! We were lucky enough to see Red Squirrels, Chipmunks and the very entertaining Meeting Of Mice. Our day ended with the bird displays, we got to see (and sometimes feel!) the flying prowess of the Barn Owl, Golden Eagle, Kestrel, Sparrow Hawk, Harris Hawk and my particular favourite, Pungu the Bat-eagle (see photo attached).

The finale of the summer activity programme was ‘Operation Camouflage’ at Rock Barracks. This was the second year Wattisham young people have been invited to participate in the three-day event based at Rock Barracks, which is organised in partnership with Suffolk Coastal District Council. It brought together 72 local young people, giving them the opportunity to participate in activities aimed at developing team building skills and self-confidence. There are far too many great activities to list but they included climbing wall, inflatable, laser clay shooting and Segways as well as numerous craft and sport sessions. I have just found out Operation Camouflage has been shortlisted for the Youth Justice Award in the National ‘Children and Young People Now’ Awards – Good Luck Op Cam!

Hello, my name is Karlie Clark, I have recently taken over the position of the SSAFA volunteer co-ordinator for Wattisham station. I had been a SSAFA community volunteer in Wattisham for the past two years, helping support the community here.

Volunteering is very rewarding, being part of a team of volunteers supporting our community by raising funds to then give back to our community, as well as befriending those that could use some support or guidance in times of need which is something I feel very honoured to be able to provide.

SSAFA is a great charity organisation set up to provide lifelong support to those who are serving or have ever served in the British Army, the Royal Navy and the Royal Air Force, and their families. SSAFA’s vital work is only made possible by our team of trained volunteers and professional staff.

I am writing to appeal to anybody who would like to join our friendly team of volunteers who can spare just a couple of hours per week. The more volunteers we can recruit the more we can support Wattisham as a community. All of your training is provided by SSAFA direct at their headquarters and is a great place to meet other volunteers. Have a look at SSAFA’s website for more information www.ssafo.org.uk/get-involved/volunteer/

If this sounds something you would like to be part of or you would like some more information please give me a call or text on 07948350566.

Wattisham is our local branch that is at your doorstep. It is completely confidential but if you want to talk to someone not associated to Wattisham you can also call the UK SSAFA Forces Line 0800 731 4880 Monday - Friday, 10.30am - 7.30pm.

FUNDRAISING

Thanks to the fabulous array of cakes generously contributed by you all, we raised over £100 at 7Bn Families Day and very generously we will still be receiving a £100 donation from the raffle held that day for ‘CO for the day’. All money raised by SSAFA at Wattisham is used at Wattisham and we are always looking for worthy causes to support so if you know of any individuals or groups who would benefit from funding, requests can be made through the HIVE or Welfare Officers.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

SSAFA supports many of the clubs on camp and funding most recently has gone to the Community Centre in order to buy new chairs and tables, the women’s club on a Tuesday to fund beverages and cakes, various events for the Youth Club and also to the Contact House in order to make it more homely for those wishing to stay there. A further £100 has been donated to the Station in order to buy recreational items for one of the off-duty crew rooms.

UPCOMING EVENTS

There are several upcoming fundraising events for which we need your help and support, for all the following events we require volunteers to run the stalls, so if you would like to help SSAFA but cannot commit permanently why don’t you come along, it would not only be greatly appreciated but you can also meet lots of new people. If you can help at any or all of the below events even if just for a short time please email Gemma Whatson at gsemdsgtoting@hotmail.com for further details and times.

- 8th October – Station Health Fair at the gym. SSAFA will be running a Big Brew Up at this event and once again require your baking skills, any cakes and/or savouries welcome and to be dropped at the WISC on or the day before the event.
- 9th October – 7Bn Families Day
- 5th November – Bonfire Night. As above, we kindly request any cake donations for this event where we will be serving snacks and also hot drinks including mulled wine!

The major focal point over the school summer holiday period was the holiday activity programme.

The Rocket session was run in partnership with the Mid Suffolk District Council Countryside staff, who provided all of the equipment required to make the Rockets. The young people had to use the provided equipment to design and create their own super Rocket; once they were happy with the build and design we went outside to launch the Rockets. We were all shocked how high and far these plastic bottle Rockets could fly just with a bit of water and a foot pump! The young people (and the adults!) loved the Rockets and it is something we would definitely love to do again in the future.

Our day out at the Green Light Trust was made possible by funding from the Community Covenant. The day in Forest gave our young people the chance to participate in challenging and exciting activities, where they were required to work as a team to achieve results. Activities included; Fire Lighting, Den Building, Orienteering and Woodwork. The day was rounded off nicely with toasted marshmallows over the campfire. We all had a fantastic time and can’t wait to go back!

The visit to the Owl Sanctuary at Stonham Barns was a great day out. We were treated to a guided tour of the facility and got introduced to some of the residents! We were lucky enough to see Red Squirrels, Chipmunks and the very entertaining Meeting Of Mice. Our day ended with the bird displays, we got to see (and sometimes feel!) the flying prowess of the Barn Owl, Golden Eagle, Kestrel, Sparrow Hawk, Harris Hawk and my particular favourite, Pungu the Bat-eagle (see photo attached).

The finale of the summer activity programme was ‘Operation Camouflage’ at Rock Barracks. This was the second year Wattisham young people have been invited to participate in the three-day event based at Rock Barracks, which is organised in partnership with Suffolk Coastal District Council. It brought together 72 local young people, giving them the opportunity to participate in activities aimed at developing team building skills and self-confidence. There are far too many great activities to list but they included climbing wall, inflatable, laser clay shooting and Segways as well as numerous craft and sport sessions. I have just found out Operation Camouflage has been shortlisted for the Youth Justice Award in the National ‘Children and Young People Now’ Awards – Good Luck Op Cam!
We are extremely fortunate at Wattisham to have on station one of the Army’s two Gliding Clubs (the other being at Upavon airfield in Wiltshire).

We have a fantastic fleet of aircraft, with two two-seater training gliders, two high performance single seaters and a motor glider. We can train you from having no flying experience, through basic pre-solo skills to solo standard and beyond, even to Motor Glider PPL if you wish. All our instructors are volunteers, but with a wealth of experience and qualifications, all being trained, approved and monitored through the British Gliding Association. Prior to flight your instructor will give you a basic briefing so you have an understanding of the aircraft and its equipment, then you’ll be strapped into your comfortable seat in the front of the glider. We usually launch our gliders by winch, an exciting start to your flight which enables us to climb to somewhere between 1000 and 2000 feet in less than a minute! Then, releasing the launch cable all becomes quiet and serene, you will be able to appreciate the wonderful unencumbered all-around view of the Suffolk countryside. On good visibility days we can see farther than Bury St Edmunds or Felixstowe from the height of the launch. If you wish, your instructor will begin to teach you the first lessons in flight – look-out, airmanship, and the effects of the controls. You are on your way to becoming a glider pilot! As we have no engine to keep us aloft we are always looking for rising air currents which can help to prolong our flight, or ideally to be able to climb higher and higher, and even allow us to fly away from the airfield, and go on cross-country adventures! The joy and thrill of using nature and our own skills to stay airborne (for up to 5 hours or more) is unsurpassable and all the more exhilarating as we are not damaging the environment, rather we are part of it. Another particular joy is to share a rising air current or thermal, with seagulls, or kites or other birds of prey. We circle freely and silently with them, and climb together as though we too were birds. Anglia Gliding Club, which is part of the Army Gliding Association (AGA), is subsidised by Army Sports funding to provide Sporting and Adventure Training opportunities to all service personnel. We also welcome families of service personnel and MoD employees and a limited number of civilian members who contribute specialist skills to help keep our fleet of aircraft and vehicles running. We have recently been successful in an Armed Forces Community Covenant Grant application which has generously provided us with £15,000 funding for two new ground handling vehicles to make our operations more efficient. Another successful bid for joint AAC and AGA funding will see us getting an aerotowing motor glider later this year, which will allow us to fly more easily during the week as well as at weekends, and increase the amount of motor glider training available to all our members.

Gliding is recognised tri-service as both a Sport and Adventurous Training Activity and this month we are mounting an expedition to the highlands of Scotland to practise mountain flying skills. We have taken part in the Inter Service Gliding Competition at RAF Cosford with four club members in the Open class: Gwyn Thomas (who came first on one day), Sgt Jonny Sharp, Sgt Lee Davidson and Capt Jason Eccles. We have also had numerous members take their first solo flights: recently Air Tpr Dan Harber was our first 4 Regt AAC Flying Scholarship holder to solo, soon followed by Air Tpr Danyo Richmond. Maj Nick Barton soloed after just four training flights! We have run a Battle Back course for disabled and injured personnel (one of our two training gliders is specially adapted to be flown by student pilots without use of their lower limbs) during August stand-down, and were delighted to see one of our Battle Back students go solo. Our thanks to the SSO Lt Col Silk who kindly contributed £100 from Station funds towards the costs of the running course. We fly from the north side of Wattisham Airfield (over the far side of the runway) most weekends, some Bank Holidays, and occasionally on weekday evenings in summer (much more of this, and weekday daytime flying too once we get our aerotowing motor glider!) Visitors are always very welcome but for safety purposes it is best if you let us know in advance that you are coming so we can brief you on the safe routes to reach us. Just go to our website at angliaglidingclub.org.uk and you will find the contact details. Please come and try flying with us, whether you just like the idea of seeing Suffolk from the air, or want to try out gliding as a sport, or even as a stepping stone (at much lower cost) to powered flight or to help improve your likelihood of success at selection for military pilot training. We provide subsidised membership for military personnel and their families, or for junior members (there is no firm minimum age but children must be big enough to wear a parachute, and be capable of understanding a safety briefing. In practice, this means that under 10s and older children of particularly small stature, are unlikely to be able to fly with us). To begin with you can take out a 28 day trial membership until you decide whether you wish to become a full member. Do come and give gliding a try at Anglia Gliding Club – you can be sure of a good welcome and a great experience.

One of our Battle Back participants who went Solo.
Now well into our second year, the Wattisham Blades Netball Club continues to thrive with more and more new members joining us each week, from a former England captain (you know who you are – Jo Vann!) to those who haven’t played since primary school or even at all!

Our league team enjoyed a phenomenal first season in the South Suffolk League, winning the division, undefeated in all 20 games, and securing promotion to division 5 this season, with the first game starting towards the end of September. The best thing about us joining the league was not all the winning (although that was sweet) but was the amazingly positive feedback our team received from every opposition team that we beat. We have really earned a reputation as good sportswoman like, friendly and talented bunch of ladies and represented the Forces and Forces wives in a very positive way in our local community, which we are very proud of and will continue to do so.

However, it’s not just the league team doing well; members who just enjoy a run around and a chance to blow off steam at training are also improving and we are hoping to get some more friendlies lined up in the coming weeks for these ladies and possibly even a second team in the league next year!

From local civilians to wives and girlfriends to Air Corps personnel, the Blades are pleased to welcome everyone, no matter how good or bad you think you might be. A few weeks with Sarah “coach” Caswell, you will soon be pivoting, intercepting and shoulder passing your way around the court! We also like to socialise away from the court and will be holding a joint Halloween quiz evening with the Choir ladies.

So if you are new to the station, or even if you’ve lived here for years, and fancy trying something new (or old), come and find us in the gym on Thursday evenings 7pm-8.30pm. Contact wattishamblades@gmail.com or Chloe on 07876 768043.

We would like to thank the Station for the kind donation recently, which we hope to put towards subsidising new kit and some new goal posts.

Above is a picture of us collecting our winner’s trophy at the end of last season.

A few from our awards night in July

This one is after our last game of the season, winning every game

Not just a Candle Shop!

We also stock Edge Sculptures

We also stock…….

YANKEE CANDLE

Frith

Sculultures - Scents

Buy the Light is the “smelliest shop in town”, based in Cornhill Walk Shopping Centre, Bury St Edmunds. The shop specialises in quality home fragrance products such as Candles, Reed Diffusers, Electric Perfume Diffusers, Fragrance Lamps, Room Sprays and Sachets.

As well as having one of the largest selections of Yankee Candle and Kringle Candle products in East Anglia, it also sells other leading home fragrance brands. Whilst Buy the Light is known locally as the Candle Shop, it is far more than that. Since moving to a larger unit nearly 3 years ago, the shop has gained a reputation for selling stunning sculptures, which have to be seen to be believed. From these to contemporary felt satchels and bags, Gorjuss figurines to decorative ducks, the British Made Di Palomo hand and body product ranges to fashionable scarves; there is always something different for the discerning visitor. The perfect place to go if you’re treating yourself or someone special, there are gift options galore and a personalised ribbon printing service to add that special finishing touch. And if that wasn’t enough, the complimentary gift wrapping service is available for every product bought no matter how big or small.

With Customer Service of paramount importance, this Award Winning Gift Shop offers a monthly Discount available on the focus fragrances and a Loyalty Scheme second to none, making a regular visit to Buy the Light a must.
Air and ground crew from the Utah National Guard’s 1st Battalion, 211th Attack Reconnaissance Battalion (2-211 ARB) are visiting Wattisham Flying Station in Suffolk to learn about how the Army Air Corps’ Attack Helicopter Force (AH Force) operates the Apache.

The two-week visit follows a trip by 11 British and American soldiers to Otterburn in Northumberland.

Chief Warrant Officer 4 Jared Jones, a 2-211 ARB pilot, said: “The purpose of this exchange is to swap ideas about how we operate the Apache to help us both improve our capabilities. It was a pleasure to host the British soldiers in Utah and it’s a valuable experience to balance that by seeing how they use their own equipment on their home turf.”

Staff Sergeant Colby Irons is responsible for ensuring 1-211 ARB’s helicopters are maintained to the correct safety standards.

He said: “I’ve been very impressed with the maintenance facilities at Wattisham and it’s been interesting to talk to my counterparts in the Army Air Corps and Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers. There are a lot of similarities in how we operate, but we take slightly different routes to reach the same destination.

“We may wear different uniforms but the British and American soldiers working on the Apache are the same calibre of people, doing the same jobs with the same professionalism and pride.”

When ex-RAF man Stephen Roberts suddenly lost his sight, it was devastating for him and his family. Within just one week, Stephen went from being fully sighted to completely losing his vision, due to the condition Leber’s optic neuropathy.

At the age of 17, Stephen joined the RAF as a jet fighter pilot. During his seven years in service, Stephen spent time in Hong Kong, Singapore and the Far East, before he was medically discharged in 1966.

When he lost his sight, Stephen, like thousands of other vision-impaired veterans in the UK, didn’t realise that he was eligible for support from Blind Veterans UK, as he had left service many years ago. It wasn’t until his wife Ann encouraged Stephen, who is now in his 60s, to contact the charity, that he realised he was eligible for their free, lifelong support.

Blind Veterans UK is the national charity for vision-impaired veterans and their families. It doesn’t matter how long ago they served, or how they lost their sight, they are able to support them over their entire lifetime.

“Blind Veterans UK supports the veteran along with their spouses, as a couple,” Ann says. “They said to me: ‘We are here for you too. If you are to die before Stephen then we will always be here for him. And if it’s the other way round, we will always be here for you.’

“Not knowing what would happen to Stephen after I died had always been a worry, so I cannot put into words the relief I felt on hearing this.”

Lieutenant Colonel Rob Olney, Commanding Officer of 6 Army Air Corps in Bury St Edmunds, said: “We believe this is the second dedicated community covenant website in the country and is a very effective method of communicating the work and ambitions of the Suffolk Armed Forces Community Covenant partnership.”

Blind Veterans UK knows that sight loss can affect the whole family, and this is why they ensure their support extends to spouses, carers and family members.

Stephen’s wife Ann was reassured to know that Blind Veterans UK would support them both for life. “When we were first introduced to the charity we were told very clearly by them that Blind Veterans UK supports veterans along with their spouses, as a couple,” Ann says. “They said to me: ‘We are here for you too. If you are to die before Stephen then we will always be here for him. And if it’s the other way round, we will always be here for you.’

“Not knowing what would happen to Stephen after I died had always been a worry, so I cannot put into words the relief I felt on hearing this.”

“Blind Veterans UK is here for them. The purpose of this exchange is helping develop links and understanding between British and American units operating the Apache attack helicopter.

An exchange visit is helping develop links and understanding between British and American units operating the Apache attack helicopter.

The Suffolk Armed Forces Community Covenant goes from strength to strength through the launch of a new website.
AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL DOES THEIR BIT FOR CHARITY

Despite the warm sunshine of the 8th of June causing people to go more in search of ice cream rather than cake, the Serco staff from Air Traffic Control proved that talking for a living has its uses. Air Traffic Control proved that it was not only cake, the Serco staff from Ipswich were happy to support local charities. We are also progressing well with our gate hurdles for the Access to the Orchard project, and we have raised vegetable beds which are very productive, with a huge crop of broad beans, thanks to our home-made compost. We are passionate about maintaining our national heritage, especially in the form of our historic buildings. To this end, we are again running our Care and Repair for your Traditional Building course, specifically designed to help owners to look after their precious homes, forming as they do part of our community heritage. This 3-day course will run in September (22nd to 24th) and is suitable for not only home owners but also surveyors, builders, conservation officers, architects and anyone with an interest in traditional building techniques. We will cover repairs to timber frame, wall tie, and plaster, brick, lintel and clay lump, as well as how to tackle the issue of damp in the home. Our tutors are experienced craftspeople who will give talks as well as helping with hands-on practice. This will give you the knowledge and skill to undertake authentic repairs, or be more knowledgeable when dealing with your builder. No previous experience is needed and it will help to avoid costly mistakes and undertake sympathetic repairs and preserve the value of your traditional buildings. This is a selection of comments from previous students on the course, indicating what they learned: ‘Knowledge to evaluate building repairs and their construction’ ‘Very much gained knowledge and insight into all aspects... as an owner/maintainer of an historic building. Now have greater understanding and confidence in either undertaking or commissioning work as required’. For more information about our courses and activities please see our website at www.onhardham.org.uk or call her on 01473-658193/07766-054042.

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION BIKE RIDE 100

We started nice and early on Saturday 14th June. What began as a pipe dream for Lcpl ‘Tony’ Dudson had now become reality with a group of 9 riders leaving from Felixstowe RBL.

The group was a mixture of cyclists from the MPGS here at Wattisham including Pte ‘Andy’ Gearing, Pte ‘Stu’ Clark and myself Pte ‘Liam’ Trainor. Between us we have different levels of experience on road bikes - especially Andy who, only three months earlier, had purchased his first road bike after being turned from the dark side of mountain biking by myself. The rest of the group was made up of both serving and ex military from as far a field as Catterick. Having found our way out of Felixstowe we were quickly on our way towards Woodbridge and the first of many stops at RBL clubs en route for refreshments and photos. As we arrived at Woodbridge, local volunteers duly delivered on their promise of food and drink, with jam tarts and mince pies quickly becoming the flavour of the day. It was in Woodbridge where we had our first faller in ‘Paddy’ McCrieran, who had travelled down from Catterick. There were stopping outside the Legion and we hear a big crash! Low and behold, Paddy was on the floor having not unclipped his feet in time to stop. Having dented his pride but nothing else he quickly picked himself up and laughed it off with the rest of us. Quickly passing through Bramford, we experienced the sight of Sgt ‘Mat’ Atkinson fall for the same offense! We flew through Stowmarket having stopped at their respective Legions and were quickly approaching our fourth club of the day in Lavenham. This being a significant milestone of our journey; 50 miles or half way. Looking at the faces on many of us, you would have wondered how we would ever get around the next 50 miles in one piece. It was only a short ride to the next Legion in Long Melford, made all the better by the long down hill into the town. Arriving and entering the Legion we were amazed at how much food they had laid on for us, with everything from jam tarts to pork pies. Having eaten what we could and all feeling fat as farmers, we gingerly got back on our bikes feeling slightly lethargic and all voting for an afternoon snooze rather than carrying on to our next stop in Hadleigh.

We boarded through Hadleigh, again stopping at the Legion club and were quickly dining in on the Ipswich waterfront. We had our last stop here at the newly unveiled Merchant Navy Memorial. By this point most of us were fairly worn-out and were happy, we only had 10 miles to get back to Felixstowe. Thankfully, we had all decided to take part at a pedestrian pace to all get back in one piece; however, this nearly was not the case with the third crash of the day!

This time Karl Harvey and you yes guessed it, that man Paddy again. It was a low speed collision and could not be helped with sorely eyes and legs. We arrived back in Felixstowe to a rapture of cheers and applause from both family and friends. Between us we raised £2000. I would like to give a massive thanks to Tony Dudson, Andy Geering, Stu Clark, Mat Atkinson, Graham ‘Spike’ Thompson, Karl Harvey, Steve Matthews and Paddy McCrieran. Also a massive thanks to all who supported us along the route and at all the Royal British Legion Clubs.

Pte Trainor AGC (MPGS)
Wattisham Flying Station
A rare treat for Wattisham personnel and local civilians took place on 21 August 2014, when a surprise flypast by the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight consisting of 2 Lancaster bombers, a Spitfire and a Hurricane flew over the Airfield on route to the Clacton Air Show. Before this historic event, all were overjoyed to see a display by Delta Lady, the last Vulcan bomber, which thrilled the crowd by her majestic performance.

**OPERATION CAMOUFLAGE REVEALS YOUNG PEOPLE’S HIDDEN TALENTS**

A military-themed summer activity scheme in Woodbridge has brought young people together to develop new skills.

Operation Camouflage has seen more than 70 young people, half from military families based at Colchester, Wattisham and Woodbridge, take part in three action-packed days of craft and sport activities at the town’s Rock Barracks.

The aim of the programme, organised by Suffolk Coastal District Council and the Army Welfare Service (AWS), is to bring together young people from different backgrounds to challenge themselves and develop new skills.

Activities ranged from graffiti art and T-shirt making to an assault course and bushcraft lessons run by soldiers from the town’s 23 Engineer Regiment (Air Assault). Young people also enjoyed sports including handball and rounders.

AWS community development worker Claire Lowe said: “Operation Camouflage is all about the mixture – we mix young people from military and civilian backgrounds together for a varied mix of craft and sporting activities. At the end of each day everyone has gone home tired and happy, but also developed their confidence and learnt a lot about teamwork. ‘Securing the community covenant funding has helped us be that bit more ambitious in our activities this year. We’ve always played a range of sports, but this year we’ve been able to bring in professional coaches such as Louise Jukes, who played handball for Team GB at the London Olympics and now runs a club in Ipswich.”

Among the young people taking part was Solomon Jacobs. Having been a participant for the previous six years, this year the 14-year-old from Woodbridge was helping to organise activities. He said: “I’ve really enjoyed the activities in previous summers and it helped with my leadership and confidence. As a young leader it’s been a good opportunity to come back to continue the fun and help others enjoy the activities.”

**OPERATION CAMOUFLAGE GIVE A DISPLAY AT WATTISHAM**

**HISTORIC AIRCRAFT GIVE A DISPLAY AT WATTISHAM**

**WOODBRIDGE ACTIVITIES**

**VULCAN & BBMF**

**HISTORIC AIRCRAFT GIVE A DISPLAY AT WATTISHAM**
Aviation Training International Limited (ATIL) is proud to be the provider of the Apache Training Service for the British Army.

ATIL delivers this world class Aircrew, Groundcrew and Maintenance training through the use of qualified flying instructors, Full Mission Simulators, part task trainers and state-of-the-art electronic classrooms supporting advanced training media.

Aviation Training International Ltd.
Coldharbour Business Park, Sherborne, Dorset, DT9 4JW United Kingdom
T +44(0)1935 810300  F +44(0)1935 810325  E enquiries@atil.co.uk