



Included in this issue...

Life as a part-time reservist

Bovis Homes discount scheme

The Defence Innovation initiative

WINTER 2016



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Why should **YOU** contact the Federation?

The RAF Families Federation is funded by the RAF but sits outside the Chain of Command as an independent organisation. We represent all RAF personnel – be they Regular, Reserve, single, married or in a partnership, together with their families.

We provide a voice for the issues and concerns you have about life in the RAF, and we have direct access to senior RAF and MOD staffs as well as Government Ministers.

To do all this, we need to hear from you on issues such as quality of life, accommodation, health, education, pay and allowances. Everyone's views and concerns are important to us.

Key things to remember:

- We work with the RAF/MOD and not against them
- We don't undermine the chain of command; we work with them but will dig them in the ribs on your behalf when necessary
- We will signpost you to the 'best' experts to help you if required
- We always maintain your anonymity and respect your privacy
- We always maintain a fair and balanced approach

Remember:

If you don't tell us, we can't tell them.

Welcome from the editor



I'd like to start with a huge thank you for sending in your articles and news for inclusion in the magazine. It's great to have so much variety from so many individuals and units alike. To reach all of you we need to keep Envoy relevant for all serving personnel – regular and reserve, single and married or with long-term partners – and of course your families. You are **all** part of the 'RAF Family' so if you have a story to share, or feedback to give, please do get in touch.

To close, and with Remembrance Day around the corner at the time of writing, I'd just like to mark a moment of personal pride for my very own dad (pictured here). In his younger days as a car mechanic, he used to service the late Sir Douglas Bader's car. Austin had turned out a bespoke Allegro for this rather 'special' customer and my father was the one who adapted it for his use. We found an old photo taken on the delivery day. Dad was the only one who was 'allowed' to do the general ongoing maintenance work for him thereafter. Not only that, Sir Douglas would insist on sitting in the mechanics' cuppa area at the back of the workshop and that's where dad would also do a quick service of his legs whilst the car was on the ramp! The stories dad now shares are to treasure.



Caroline

Front Caption: RAF Ice Hockey
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CONTACT

Telephone: **01780 781650**,
email: **enquiries@raf-ff.org.uk**
or via the website **www.raf-ff.org.uk**

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Director: Bill Mahon

Communications Manager: Caroline Woodward

Communications Assistant: Nick Crouch

Evidence Manager: Colin Jones

Evidence Assistant: Todd Fellows

Evidence Assistant (Housing):

Stan Brathwaite

Regional Covenant Managers:

Graeme Spark, Jo Wilkinson, Lisa Thipthorpe

Transition Liaison Manager: Louise Briggs

Office Manager: Ruth McClelland



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Contact Chris Cappie on 01463 732223 or

email **c.cappie@methodpublishing.co.uk**



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*Military Saving programme available to current and ex Service Personnel including veterans and retired members of the UK Armed Forces. Customer savings of 5% to 20% available across the Ford range (excluding KA+, Mustang and Focus RS) on vehicles contracted from 1st October 2016 to 31st December 2016 and registered between 1st October 2016 and 30th June 2017. At participating Ford dealers – for terms and conditions, eligible models and customer savings visit: www.ford.co.uk/militarysales

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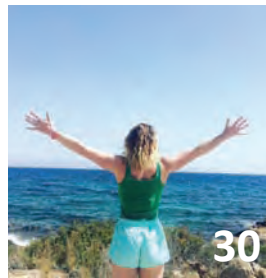
The RAF FF is starting a new two year project, with funding from the Forces in Mind Trust, looking at families' experiences of the transition process.

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SAC Gemma Davis is serving as a Part Time Volunteer Reservist (PTVR) on an Auxiliary Logistics Squadron.



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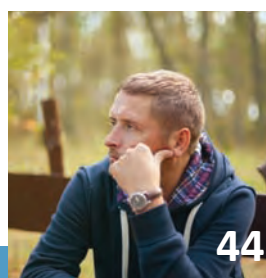
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RAF veterans and family members (16-64) are receiving help to fight anxiety and depression through the RAF Benevolent Fund.

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Photos of five children who have parents serving in the RAF have been brought together with some from the other Services to form a special planning calendar for 2017.

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48 Cinelink brings movies to you

SSVC Forces Cinemas is offering blockbuster movies to deployed, remote, or isolated forces communities via the Cinelink film service.

FROM THE Director



As usual when the time comes for me to write for Envoy, I've just flicked back through the diary to remind myself of what we have been up to over the last couple of months and I'm struck by how busy the whole team has been over the summer and early autumn. Obviously, this is a really good thing because there's nothing worse than listening to them whinge about not having enough to do – but it does also reflect how much input we are being asked for and how many initiatives and issues with which we are involved.

As many of you will know, we've tried to attend as many unit families' days as possible, partly because it's a great way to judge the 'barometer reading' of how RAF personnel and their families are feeling about Service life but also because it's the part of the job that we all really enjoy the most. We sent some of the Team on a dash to Europe and visited SHAPE, Brunssum, Ramstein, Uedem and Cyprus to bring back and report on some of the overseas-specific issues people have. We've captured your views and thoughts through our surveys on childcare, the Future Accommodation Model, quality of life in general and life as a member of the RAuxAF. Response rates this year to all our surveys have roughly

doubled on previous years, so a huge 'thank you' to everyone who contributed. Please keep filling in the surveys and encourage your work colleagues, families and friends to do the same – the more people who do so, the more weight and influence the results carry. Remember, you can find our survey reports at the website – www.raf-ff.org.uk.

What have we done with all this info? Well, it's been used to help paint a picture for the Minister for Defence Veterans, Reserves and Personnel and the Chief of Defence People, the Armed Forces Covenant Reference Group, which addresses Covenant policy and issues of disadvantage caused by military service, the Armed Forces Pay Review Body, the Armed Forces Pensions Board, senior RAF staff at HQ Air and Joint Forces Command, the Defence Infrastructure Organisation (accommodation issues still top our issues list by some distance), CarillionAmey, MOD staff dealing with the MOD Families Strategy, the Future Accommodation Model and Service Welfare, the RAF Association and RAF Benevolent Fund, and last but by no means least...you. We know that we cannot make policy but we can help to influence it for the better – so your

voice is important and remember that silence is often taken as meaning that everything is OK.

Moving on, we have welcomed some new members of staff to the Federation: Louise has joined us to manage a two year initiative funded by the Forces in Mind Trust (FiMT) into family transition from the RAF into civilian life. And Lisa has taken up the role of AF Covenant Manager for the East Midlands-ish region. A very warm welcome to both. Keep an eye on the website for job vacancies with us – they do pop up occasionally – and if you'd like to volunteer as an unpaid (sorry, the budget is tiny) supporter to work at unit level on our behalf, then do please get in touch.

Finally, given this is the winter edition and assuming you are reading this before Christmas, have a great break. And for those of you deployed on Ops, together with your families, thank you, stay safe and remember that the rest of us will have you in our thoughts. ●

Foreword by

LADY ELAINE HILLIER

Little did I think when I married my husband and became a Royal Air Force wife 32 years ago that one day he would be the Chief of the Air Staff, but here we are, 18 postings, 20 house moves and two children later! I feel so privileged to have been part of the Royal Air Force family for this long. It hasn't all been plain sailing and we've had lots of missed family events because of detachments and deployments, but I feel that's just part of the package – challenging at the time but the good has definitely outweighed the bad. My life now seems to consist of packing and unpacking bags to travel with Steve and always forgetting something – this is an area I need to improve on and I get the feeling I'm going to get plenty of practice!

As I write this we are fourteen weeks into the tour and already I've been out and about visiting units and stations. I feel it's my way of supporting the RAF Family and giving something back for all the good things I've taken from the RAF. I've visited childcare centres, schools, community centres and messes, attended an Initial Officer Training (IOT) Graduation and the Air Cadet 75th Anniversary at RAF College Cranwell. I've even climbed to the top of a lighthouse and judged a sandcastle building competition for grown-ups! I really enjoy meeting RAF personnel and families on these visits and hearing first-hand what they feel about Service life today and the good thing is, it's still mostly positive. I know things are changing, such as more deployments and therefore time away from home, more families choosing to live their lives away from married patches, and many more people progressing their Service careers whilst

bringing up their children. For those who want it, there is still a fantastic support network available and the social side still seems to be pretty good too. Community is enormously important to Service life and feeling a part of one has helped me through some of the more difficult moments of the last 32 years.

On these visits one of the main themes of my discussions with Community Support teams is always housing. I completely understand the frustrations and impact this can have on family life. I know from experience just how frustrating it can be to wait for tradesmen who don't turn up and when they do, can't complete the job. I would urge you to follow up on these issues by using the help of the Families Federation when you really need them, they are there for you and it's really easy to get in touch. It's more likely that things will get better if we all speak with one voice, so do go along and meet the Families Federation in person on their unit visits or at station families' days. Although they are a small team they all have experience of Service life, be that as RAF personnel or as families, so they understand and know how to get the job done!

I just want to finish by wishing everyone a Happy Christmas, especially to those whose loved ones are serving away from home. ●



The RAF Families Federation is an independent organisation parented by the RAF Association



The charity that supports the RAF family

www.rafa.org.uk

Registered charity number

England and Wales 226686
Scotland SCO37673

The RAF Families Federation is supported by the RAF Benevolent Fund



www.rafbf.org

Registered charity number

England and Wales 1081009
Scotland SCO38109

News

Welfare and
Leisure Facilities

The new RAF Welfare and Leisure Amenities Guide is now 'live'. The guide provides links to facilities such as motor homes, minibuses and contact houses.

Get on the
housing ladder

The Government will extend its Forces Help to Buy scheme to 2018, the Defence Secretary Sir Michael Fallon announced, helping thousands more to get on the housing ladder.

Home liability
insurance

Within the Licence to Occupy there is a clause that states that you are liable for damage you cause up to at least the sum advised currently by the MOD, which from 1st August 2011 is set at £20,000.

National Lottery
investment

The Royal Air Force Museum is delighted to announce that it has been awarded £4,595,600 from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) for the next phase of its RAF Centenary Programme.

Future
accommodation

You can find out what was said in the debate at Westminster Hall on the Future Accommodation Model (FAM) through Parliament TV. The link to the debate is on the RAF FF website.

Licence to Occupy
survey - report

The RAF Families Federation recently conducted a survey on 'Licence to Occupy' insurance. Our report on the results of the survey is now available online.

Dealing with
damp and mould

There is a downloadable infographic available from CarillionAmey showing you the process to follow when dealing with damp and mould in your Service Family Accommodation.

Crew run rings
around the rest

The idea was simple: flip a 275lb tractor tyre 8 miles around RAF Northolt airfield within six hours, and a goal of raising £1,000 for the RAF Benevolent Fund.

Compensation
scheme

Rail passengers will soon be able to claim compensation if their train is more than 15 minutes late under an improved compensation scheme announced by the Transport Secretary.

Scheme rewards
members

The Royal Air Forces Association has launched a new scheme to give members discounts on a wide range of products and services.

Military
entrepreneurs

The unprecedented success of military entrepreneurship has been celebrated by the government, big business and charities, on the third anniversary of the business support service X-Forces.

CEO of Recruit for
Spouses Wins

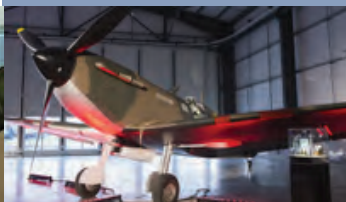
The force behind Recruit for Spouses, Heledd Kendrick, won the 'Special' Award at the Women in Defence Awards 2016, which celebrates the individuals who promote the value of women in defence.

New Forces in
Mind Trust award

A grant of £39,478 has been awarded to Swansea University for the very first evaluation of gambling-related problems among UK veterans.

Thank you from
the Big Salute

The BFBS Big Salute has raised more than £27,000 since April this year, thanks to the generosity of fundraisers in the forces community and supporters around the globe.

Spectacular new
hangar at IWM

Aircraft Restoration Company reveal its spectacular new Stephenson Hangar at IWM Duxford, built primarily to house major maintenance work to be carried out on the BBMF's Avro Lancaster.

Mini missile
decoy for RAF

The UK Ministry of Defence (MOD) has placed a £2.5 million order for UK-designed and built miniature decoys which will help to protect combat jets from missiles.

Further details on all these stories can be found on
www.raf-ff.org.uk

Search for the headline



North Wales Transition Fair



Over 60 exhibitors at Glyndwr University Sports Hall, Wrexham between 1200 - 1400 hrs on Thursday 9th February 2017. This is a free event for all Serving personnel, Veterans and families.

RAF Image of the Year for 2016



'Arrival Loop', a photo of the Royal Air Force Aerobatic Team, the Red Arrows, has been chosen by members of the public as their RAF 'People's Choice' image of the year.

Online shop is open for business



The Royal Air Forces Association's online shop has been relaunched, with an expanded product range and an updated website. Find the perfect gift for that hard to buy for RAF enthusiast.

New childcare facility



On 17 Oct 16, RAF High Wycombe formally opened a brand new child care facility – The Wise Owls Nursery and Pre School. The unveiling ceremony was conducted by AVM Sue Gray.

Aircraft support deal



Minister for Defence Procurement, Harriett Baldwin announced a £131.5 million support contract for the RAF's long-range Sentinel surveillance aircraft, sustaining around 160 UK jobs.

Huge Kenya delivery



A team from RAF Shawbury representing the Taking Football to Africa and Beyond Charitable Appeal, delivered over 15,000 donated items including 4683 football shirts to 53 locations in Kenya.

Red Arrows display in China



Aviation history was made by the Royal Air Force Aerobatic Team when the Red Arrows performed a public display in China for the first time - they have now performed in 57 countries since 1965.

Latest edition of Connect



The latest edition of the RAF Association's magazine Connect is available online. The magazine can be viewed as a PDF or a page turning digital copy.

Cyber security bolstered



The UK will be one of the safest places in the world to do business, with a world-class cyber security industry and workforce thanks to a new plan supported by £1.9 billion of investment.

Keeping the RAF family safe



The RAF Association stepped in to assist an ex-RAF telecoms technician, who had been medically discharged, by funding modifications to his bathroom when the Local Authority couldn't help.

County Council reviews its pledge



Two of the RAF FF Covenant team played their part in a conference to review Suffolk's pledge to the Armed Forces Community that was first made back in October 2012.

Honours and Awards presented



On the 25th October 2016, CO Wg Cdr Donna Robinson welcomed AVM Gerry Mayhew CBE MA RAF, AOC 1Gp, to RAF(Unit) Swanwick to present RAF personnel with Honours and Awards.

New Learning Centre opens



Learning in Wittering Village took a step forward when the Community Learning Centre Plus was opened by Councillor David Sanders, the Mayor of Peterborough.

Historic first training exercise



The Royal Air Force and Japan Air Self Defense Force have marked the first joint exercise between the two countries with a ceremony attended by Service Chiefs and government Ministers.

MOD signs £184 million contract



The MOD has awarded a contract worth around £184 million to ensure the UK's new supersonic stealth combat aircraft will continue to be equipped with the latest air-to-air missile.

INTRODUCING...

WO JON CROSSLEY, CHIEF OF THE AIR STAFF'S WARRANT OFFICER (CAS WO)

I write this having just taken over as CAS WO and to say that it is an honour and privilege would be an understatement. I feel the same pride over the continued support and commitment that we all receive from our RAF Family, both from those at home and those working tirelessly on our behalf, as the Families Federation does daily.

As a previous Phase 2 Wing WO, WO RTS and SWO at Cranwell, I have had firsthand experience of the pride, commitment and belonging that those joining today feel, which I can honestly say is not that different to what was felt by those who joined more years ago than we may care to remember! The sense of belonging felt by our newest recruits is also felt by their families, who are always bursting at the seams with pride and support for their loved ones. They are though a different generation with different needs and ambitions in an ever changing military environment. These needs are one of the key reasons the wider RAF Family is so important as they support Serving personnel, raising issues and questions to ensure our people are treated fairly across the Whole Force.

Our people are very much in demand across defence and throughout the world providing an unrivalled military capability. While proud to serve our country, being asked to constantly perform to such a high standard and at a non-stop tempo also brings a

degree of risk. The pressure to achieve and to deliver can take its toll over time on both our people and their families and we need to ensure this is identified, measured and addressed.

So how can we help ourselves?

The Families Federation frequently launches five-minute online surveys covering a variety of topics that help create the totally independent voice that they use to represent us as regular Serving personnel, Reservists, singlies, as well as our families. You'll remember that Bill Mahon, in the Director's Note has already included before me, the topics of surveys covered so far this year. A broad range of topics, I'm sure you will agree and ones that we all have a view on. I would therefore encourage each and every one of you to find that small amount of time to undertake their surveys.

As we prepare to celebrate our first 100 years as a modern, current and relevant service, we will most definitely enter our second century

with eager anticipation of what will come next. But let us not forget that we cannot do it alone and the collective strength we have as a whole RAF Family should not be underestimated.

Once again I am extremely proud to be able to represent the views, opinions and needs of our 23,000 non-commissioned ranks and I am equally heartened knowing that the Families Federation will be working alongside to ensure that all our people and their families are treated fairly in an ever changing world.

I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible during my tenure. ●



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**Royal Air Force
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Launch of the DEFENCE INNOVATION INITIATIVE



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The MOD will seek out new ways of training through increased exploitation of virtual reality simulation.

By Wg Cdr David Wilkinson, Defence Strategy and Priorities

The UK has a reputation as one of the world's most innovative nations. British innovation developed the tank, the fighter aircraft and radar. More recently, the UK's Armed Forces have innovated continuously to meet the challenges faced on operations around the world, responding to evolving threats on the battlefield and using innovative solutions to respond rapidly to sudden crises like the Ebola outbreak in West Africa. Today, many Armed Forces personnel are at the forefront of developing new capabilities which will push technology to its limits, including missile systems like Brimstone, as well as 6th generation aircraft and synthetic simulation using the latest games technology.

Within the military, our readiness to adapt and innovate in response to threats to the UK is a key part of what makes us successful. And we need this mindset now just as much as ever. The world is undergoing rapid technological change – just think about how our lives now revolve around cyberspace and the instant connectivity to huge amounts of information this brings. But this technology is just as readily available to our adversaries as it is to us and they may seek to use it against us in novel ways that outmanoeuvre our traditional advantages. So we need to continue to innovate to stay ahead, to maintain military advantage and protect the UK and our people.

The Defence Innovation Initiative was launched in September to fundamentally change the way in which Defence goes about its business. The initiative's aim is a simple but challenging one – to empower the Armed Forces to become innovative

by instinct. So what does this mean? Over the next few years, the MOD aims to encourage more innovative behaviour at all levels, from its senior leadership to its new civilian and military recruits. This means altering attitudes to encourage people to innovate and develop new ways to work, whether that's through organisational change or through adapting the environment in which we work so that we communicate and share ideas more readily. We will also look to take better advantage of innovation occurring outside government, setting up the new Innovation and Research InSights Unit to capture and understand the latest global innovation opportunities as well as establishing a Defence and Security Accelerator which will provide an environment to bring together innovators from the private sector to work on the Armed Forces' most significant challenges. The MOD is backing this up

with a fund of around £800 million over the next 10 years.

So what does this mean for you? Defence is looking to harness ideas from across the Armed Forces, whether that's through novel use of an existing technology, perhaps through the way in which we work together online or through our use of emerging capabilities like increasingly agile and miniature drone technology such as SKEETER (see image below). The MOD will issue an innovation challenge call in the next couple of months, so keep a look out for it. Alternatively, if you have an idea that you think could improve how Defence does its business, consider making a suggestion under the GEMS scheme. If you would like to read more about the Defence Innovation Initiative, take a look at the prospectus – Advantage through Innovation. ●



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The SKEETER micro-UAV is being developed by a UK company, Animal Dynamics and aims to replicate the flight of a dragonfly to gather intelligence in both day and night.

Innovation prospectus webpage: gov.uk/government/publications/advantage-through-innovation-the-defence-innovation-initiative-prospectus



RAF Ice Hockey

The Royal Air Force Ice Hockey Association (RAFIHA) held their Annual four-day Championships at Dundee Ice Arena during the Autumn '16.

The 4 regional teams, made up from a number of supporting Stations and civilian players, made the journey to Dundee from all across the UK to compete for the honour of being named as the top RAF team of 2016; RAF Lossiemouth Jets, RAF Vulcans, RAF Cosford Stars and the RAF Bluewings.

Teams arrived on Monday evening for an arrivals brief and the much anticipated allocation to the 'trade' teams which were to compete in the pond hockey tournament on the Tuesday for bragging rights throughout the week. Competition was fierce but the 'Logistics' team eventually skated away as the victors in a convincing style over the Officers team, winning 3-0 in the final.

The tournament itself started in earnest on the Wednesday with some hard fought games. The Bluewings and

Vulcans got off to a blistering start. The Bluewings tore through the Cosford defence in the opening game to win 6-1.

It was clear from this early point that, besides the Bluewings, the other team to watch was that of the reigning Champions, the Vulcans who play out of Planet Ice, Peterborough and have players from East Anglia up to Lincolnshire. The Vulcans finished the first full day of play with a significant win over Jets, 6-1.

Wednesday saw a confident Bluewings side claiming five scalps with an unbeaten run which continued after the lunchtime break to finish the day at the top of the leaderboard in a style that was reminiscent of the 2015 tournament. Hopefully this year's final would not see them falling at the final hurdle and losing out on a Penalty shoot-out.

Meanwhile, Lossie Jets defeated Cosford 7-3 to secure third place in the competition.

The final day of competition play saw the two teams that were ultimately

going to be the finalists face each other for a prequel of what was to come; Vulcans V Bluewings. A confident Bluewings, buoyed by their recent run of success, started the day on a high, inflicting a punishing 6-1 defeat on the Vulcans. Their undefeated run saw them coast into the final scheduled for later that afternoon ready for whatever may come.

Thursday afternoon and AVM Martin Clarke, the RAFIHA President drop the puck for the first face-off. This was to be the first full 20 minute period game and it would be the fitness of the team and clever use of the lines that would make the difference.

The Bluewings came bursting out of the out of the centre circle and put the first period to bed with 3 unanswered goals; Cpl Richie Gray and SAC Adam Rosbottom were being allowed to skate and combine well giving the Vulcans a lot to think about in their defensive zone.

The second period followed on along the same lines, and although the Vulcans had some strong players



and made some great plays, they just could not find a way through the solid Bluewings defensive wall of an ever present Cpl Horsfall backed up by SAC(T) Bicker in net. The second period finished 7-0. The win was now within sight and grasp of the Bluewings; just 20 minutes stood between them and being crowned 2016 RAF Champions, a win that would ease the pain of the 2015 defeat. The final period did not disappoint. At one stage the

Bluewings even gifted the Vulcans the best opportunity of the game by seeing how many players they could fit in the penalty box at one time. Unfortunately the Vulcans did not capitalise on this and the lines were once again even. With 1:26 of play remaining it looked like the Bluewings were going to win without reply, that is until someone mentioned the word shutout! At that point the Vulcans saw a way through and managed to finally get the puck in the

back of the net; this was nothing more than they deserved through their dogged play.

The next RAF Ice Hockey event is the Grassroots training camp at RAF Cosford 7-8th November.

If you'd like to try ice hockey in the RAF why not check out www.facebook.com/raficehockey for more information or check out @RAFIHA on twitter. 📍

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RAF CHARITABLE APPEAL MAKES HUGE KENYA DELIVERY

A team representing a Charitable Appeal based at RAF Shawbury in North Shropshire has completed 12 days of deliveries of football kit in the slum areas of Kenya in East Africa.

The Taking Football to Africa and Beyond Charitable Appeal is run by Wing Commander Neil Hope MBE, who is based at RAF Shawbury. The Appeal, which operates through the RAF Football Association, delivers 'Aid through Football' to the needy across the world. The Appeal, which started in 2006, has delivered over 153000 items to 52 countries worldwide to date.

The visit is to allow a diverse group of people to deliver items from the Appeal

to the needy in and around Nairobi, the capital city of Kenya in East Africa. A group of 12 Military and Civilians travelled to Kenya on 8th October and made 53 deliveries over 12 days of 15354 items including 4683 football shirts.

The items delivered were donated by football clubs and people from across the United Kingdom and included many items donated by Premier League clubs such as Manchester United and Leicester City, through the Leagues to Grassroots football clubs and County Football Associations. Many deliveries were made of items donated by Sheffield and Hallamshire CFA, Worcestershire FA, Durham FA, Dorset FA, Hampshire FA, Derbyshire

FA amongst others and including their member clubs.

Nearer to home in Shawbury items were donated by Shropshire FA, Shrewsbury Town, AFC Telford Utd, Shawbury Utd and many other teams. The deliveries included many of the huge slum areas in Nairobi including Kibera, which is the largest slum town in Africa with over one million people living in an area of less than three square kilometres with no mains electricity, no sewerage system and little running water. The schools are mostly very small corrugated iron buildings which are incredibly hot and have up to 60 children per class. The obvious desire of the children to learn however, is incredible. ●



Day 6 - FB - Chris Skaife at Saidia Childrens Home - Gilgil.



Alan Fish at Juja Farm Primary School.



Durham FA - FS Danny Jackson - Kibagare Ladies FC - Kibagare Good News Centre.



Wg Cdr Neil Hope at Lizpal School in Ngando.

Neil said:

"I am incredibly proud to have taken this diverse team of 12 on this delivery visit and I am very pleased to have been able to deliver the masses of kit donated by so many clubs and people.

The appreciation of the children and adults who receive the kit leaves a lasting impression on everyone who volunteers for these visits."



Day 6 - FB - Saidia Childrens Home - Gilgil.



A little boy with his new very large shorts at Juwawa - Juwawa Academy - Nairobi.



A little girl with her new Energize Shropshire T-shirt at the Pastor Amos Okolo School - Kibagare slum.



Day 7 - FB - Kibera.



FS Louise Simpson at Kandara Childrens Home.



Tony Kinchley presents an England shirt to a teacher at Mathare Brain House Academy.

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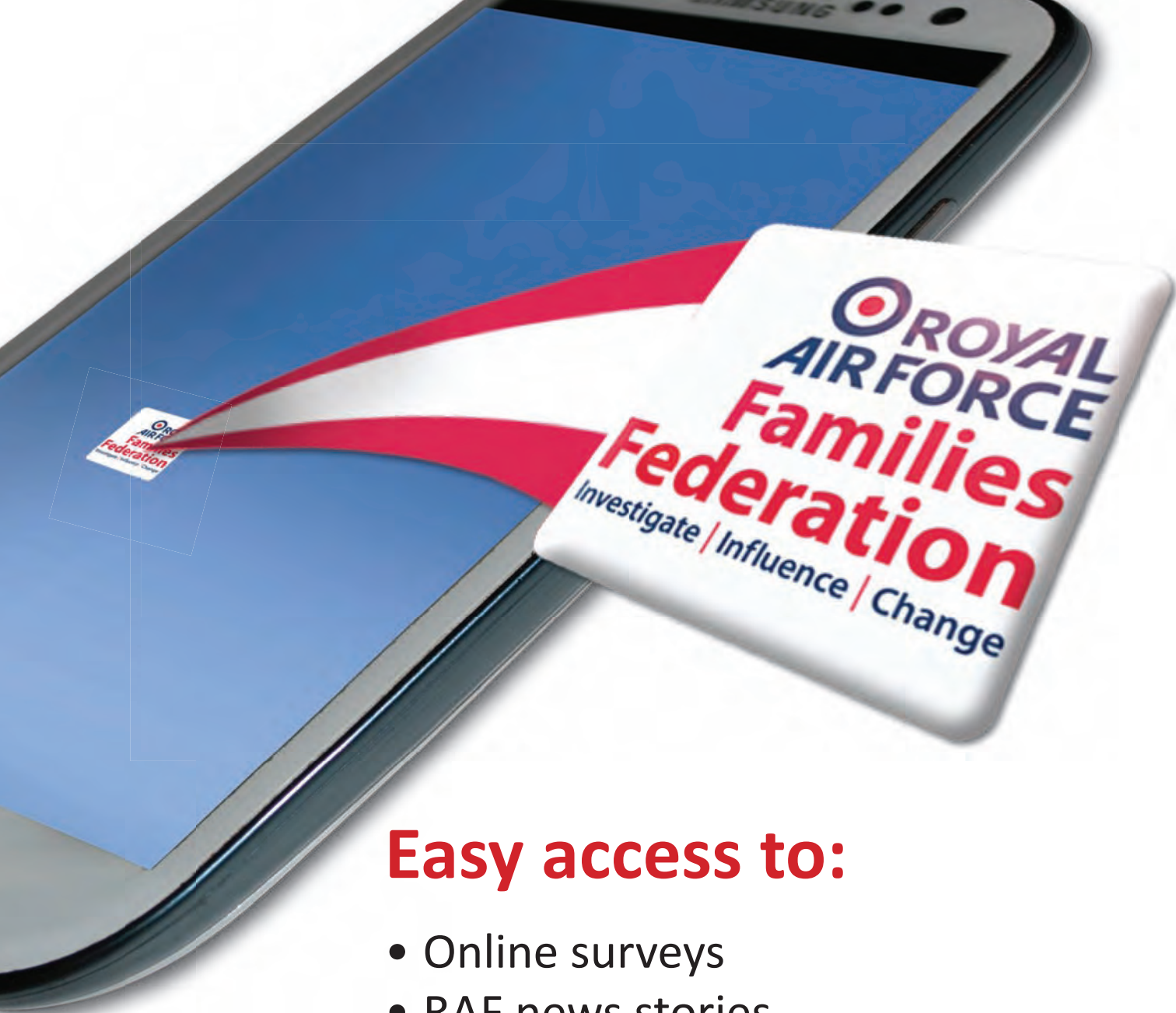
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Battle of Britain Memorial,

The clifftop Memorial to the Battle of Britain has become a major attraction for visitors from all over the country.

The National Memorial to the Few began life as a simple statue high on the White Cliffs between Dover and Folkestone, beneath the very skies in which much of the Battle was fought between 10 July and 31 October 1940.

Over the years the Battle of Britain Memorial Trust has added a number of new features to the site. The most recent – The Wing – houses an interactive ‘experience’ which aims to bring to life what was arguably the most important battle fought by this country in the whole of the last century.

With the added attraction of a replica Hurricane and Spitfire, The Scramble Experience has made the site as exciting for children and families as it is poignant for older visitors.

While former and serving RAF personnel find the central statue and the Christopher Foxley-Norris Memorial Wall a moving place of reflection, younger people love the hands-on exhibits and interactive graphics in the walk-through Scramble Experience.

At its heart is a specially commissioned short film that tells a tale of two pilots in the Battle and was enough to move one veteran to tears as he watched it on the day of the Royal opening.

As well as the interactive exhibits, the experience offers a huge amount of information, with touch screen displays that invite visitors to view film clips, biographies, images and more.

The Memorial, a stone carving of an airman, was unveiled by Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother in 1993 and still enjoys pride of place at the centre of this peaceful site at Capel-le-Ferne in Kent.

The airman wears an Irvin Jacket which carefully conceals any suggestion of his rank or nationality. A much-decorated British officer or an NCO airman from another country who didn't make it back from his first sortie? We aren't told – but every one of the men involved is honoured at this place of pilgrimage.

Their names are listed – again without rank or decoration – on the Christopher Foxley-Norris Memorial Wall, a black granite tribute to the fewer than-3000 men



Capel-le-Ferne in Kent

who served so valiantly. Famous names sit alongside the relatively unknown, together in peace as they were in war.

The full-sized replica Hurricane and Spitfire remind visitors of the aircraft most associated with the Battle, while engravings on the Memorial Wall highlight the other machines involved, such as the Defiant and the Blenheim.

The Wing, a new visitor centre that marks the latest step in the evolution of the Memorial site, was opened by Her Majesty The Queen, accompanied by His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh, in March 2015.

Built to reflect the wingplan of a Spitfire – including that immediately recognisable upward sweep – the building houses the Experience in one wing and a teaching area, the Geoffrey Page Centre, in the other.

The Geoffrey Page Centre, which reflects the Trust's commitment to making sure future generations understand the story of the Battle, is available for corporate use when not being used by schools.

The Wing also houses a well-stocked souvenir shop and a first floor café with outstanding views across the Channel to France.

While new facilities have been added to the site over the years, for many visitors its primary attraction is the peace and tranquillity it offers to those who simply want to reflect on the bravery and sacrifice of the men Churchill called "The Few" or to remember relatives and friends.

The site is free to visit, although there is a small charge for parking. The Scramble Experience is the only paid attraction and costs £6 for adults and £4 for children aged between five and 16. There are concessions, with a family ticket costing just £16.50.

The Wing, the café and the car park are open daily from 10am to 5pm from

1st March to the end of September and from 10am till 4pm through the winter, with a short closure over Christmas (see the website for details).

The site itself can be accessed on foot at any time, 365 days of the year, and offers families who arrive early for their cross-Channel ferry somewhere to pass an hour or so and stretch their legs.

Hunting Lodge, which previous visitors may remember as the site's original shop and café, is due to be revamped and expanded to provide a library and research area and will house an impressive collection of books and some items of memorabilia.

There is much more information at www.battleofbritainmemorial.org

Lest We Forget. ●



Images Credit Battle of Britain Memorial Trust.



Introducing a 'REFRESHED' Cowdray Lounge at the Royal Air Force Club



By Charlotte Gray, Events and Marketing Manager

On 31 October 1918 the first Lord Cowdray made a generous gift to provide a permanent building to house the fledgling Royal Air Force Club; and by the middle of 1919 the buildings which make up the present Club at 128 Piccadilly were acquired.

The Piccadilly frontage was originally the Ladies Lyceum Club and was built in the 1800s, whilst the rear half, facing Old Park Lane, was stables. Between 1919 and 1921 extensive reconstruction took place, largely financed by Lord Cowdray and so it is not entirely surprising that the Club named one of its finest rooms in Lord Cowdray's honour.

Following a recent closure, the Club was delighted to unveil the refurbished Cowdray Lounge; once again open for business for members and their guests. This spacious and restful room, overlooking Green Park, as it did in Lord Cowdray's day, now benefits from air conditioning for the summer months and newly restored fireplaces for the colder months and sports a soothing colour palette enhanced with teal and gold accents.

Comfortable new sofas, armchairs and elegant soft furnishings complete the stylish refurbishment, offering a relaxing hideaway to linger over the morning papers, a cup of Birchalls



loose tea or a pre-dinner aperitif. The Club's signature Afternoon Tea is also served between 3pm-5.30pm every day of the week.

Join the Royal Air Force Club and benefit from central London accommodation, fine dining and even a pub within a Club, the Running Horse Tavern!

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Accommodation Matters

By Stan Brathwaite, RAF FF Housing Specialist

Sadly the issues that have dominated my in-tray over the past few months are again those of Move-in Standards and CAAS banding. From our perspective, a common denominator in the failure of move-ins is a lack of supervision and of consistency of standards across some regions. CarillionAmey have repeatedly stated that they have instigated improvement measures, which include better training; unfortunately we have yet to see much evidence of that, even though we are now 2 years into the contract. If you think otherwise, or if you have had a move in issue, please get in touch as your evidence is vital in helping us to keep the pressure on.

Whilst it appears that the introduction of CAAS has been broadly accepted by families, there are a number of cases (5.2%) where there have been challenges, and subsequent appeals. Of 38000 grading letters issued in the initial tranche, 1988 challenges and appeals were received, of which 180 have been upheld to date.

The following is what we told the Armed Forces Pay Review Body (AFPRB) on accommodation:

“Accommodation remains by far the number one issue reported to the RAF Families Federation: CarillionAmey performance has been so poor that the company’s reputation is now irrevocably damaged – culminating in a savaging from the Public Accounts Committee earlier this year. Despite statistics showing recent improvement, the ‘lived experience’ of far too many SFA occupants’ remains very poor, causing stress and frustration that, for some families, is the final straw.

“Many of the issues apply also to single personnel in SLA: Quality still remains patchy and the divisive lottery of grade 4 and grade 1 accommodation allocated on the same unit is not uncommon.

“Similarly, we have heard more in the last 12 months than ever before about issues with infrastructure on units in poor condition and not being maintained: Leaking roofs, no heating for months at a time, broken toilets left unrepaired and limited access to facilities such as gymnasiums and clubs.”

SFA Winterisation – This shouldn’t come as a surprise and by now most have taken these precautions. However, I think it worthwhile



providing a link here simply because of the number of avoidable burst pipes and subsequent flooding that may dominate this season. carillionamey.co.uk/media/274073/7_simple_steps_for_winter_prep.pdf

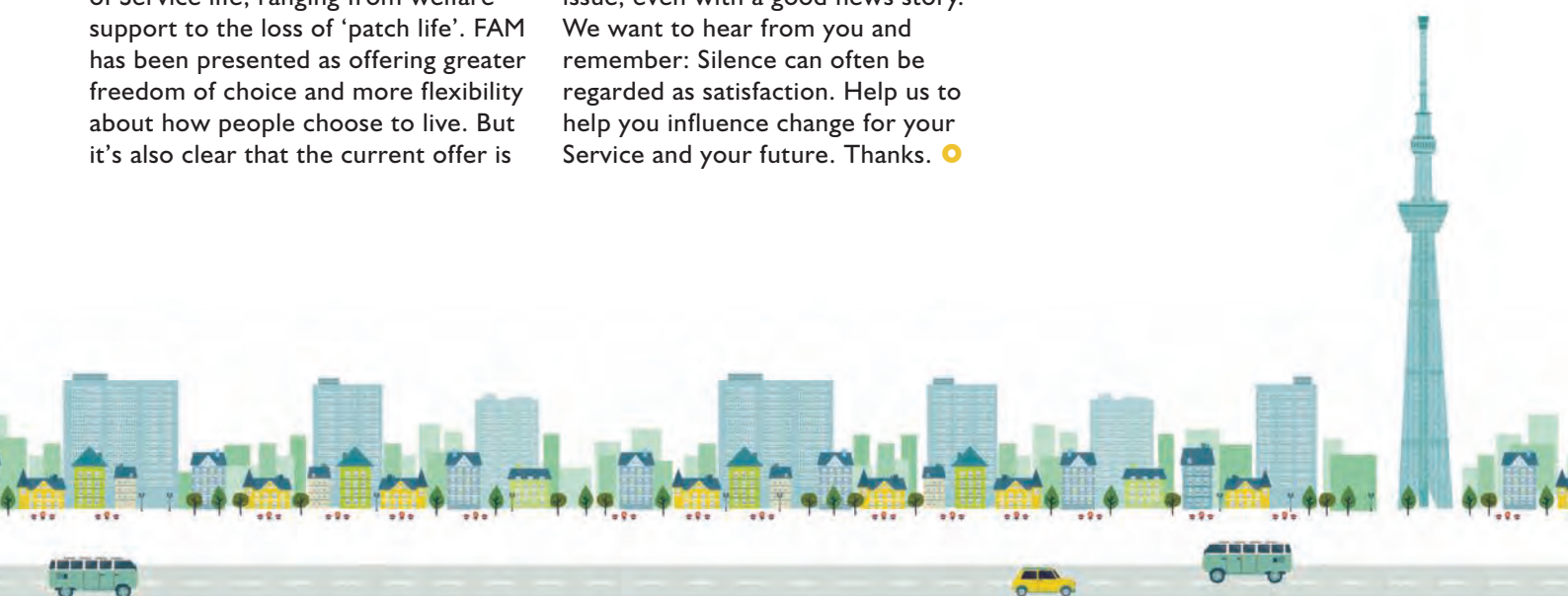
Substitute SFA (SSFA) and Substitute Service Single Accommodation (SSSA) – For those families that have resided in SSFA for some time and for those that are being allocated an SSFA, it is worth noting that the Mears Group was awarded the contract to manage SSFA and SSSA with effect from 01 Apr 16, vice HCR Ltd, so they are in their infancy with this contract. Any individual issues which have not been resolved with Mears should be highlighted to us at the RAF FF and we will liaise with DIO on your behalf. We would also like to hear from you as to how your experience (good and bad) has been, in terms of being allocated and living in SSFA and SSSA.

Future Accommodation Model (FAM) an update – There seems to be an increasing nervousness about the Future Accommodation Model (FAM), which has the potential to change radically the way that accommodation is provided in the future. People are worried too about the potential impact on other aspects of Service life, ranging from welfare support to the loss of 'patch life'. FAM has been presented as offering greater freedom of choice and more flexibility about how people choose to live. But it's also clear that the current offer is

both unaffordable and unsustainable, and that FAM represents a significant cost-cutting measure: This makes people nervous rather than optimistic and many are already worried that SFA will be largely unavailable, quality will fall and prices rise, whichever option is selected. Incidentally you can find out what RAF families thought about FAM at raf-ff.org.uk/reports.asp.

Private accommodation – Ever mindful that you will one day sever links with the RAF, I feel that it is only prudent to provide a good source of accommodation advice in that of the Joint Service Housing Advice Office (JSHAO). JSHAO is the MOD's tri-service focal point to provide Service Personnel and their entitled family members with civilian housing information, and access to independent financial advice (through siiap.org) for those considering civilian accommodation at any time in their career, and for those during resettlement to assist with the transition to civilian life. Furthermore another good source of independent facts can be found on the Office for National Statistics (ONS) website. visual.ons.gov.uk/five-facts-about-housing/

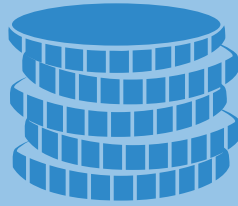
Finally, we urge you to continue to contact us on any accommodation issue, even with a good news story. We want to hear from you and remember: Silence can often be regarded as satisfaction. Help us to help you influence change for your Service and your future. Thanks. ☺





HM Treasury

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Save up to £4,000 each year, and receive a government bonus of 25% – that's a bonus of up to £1,000 a year. You can use some or all of the money to buy your first home, or save it until you're 60 – it's up to you.

open a Lifetime ISA account between the ages of 18 and 40, and any savings you put into it before your 50th birthday will receive an added 25% bonus from the government

accounts will be available from April 2017

there is no maximum monthly contribution – you can save as little or as much as you want each month, up to £4,000 a year

use it to save for a first home

your savings can be put towards a first home worth up to £450,000 across the country

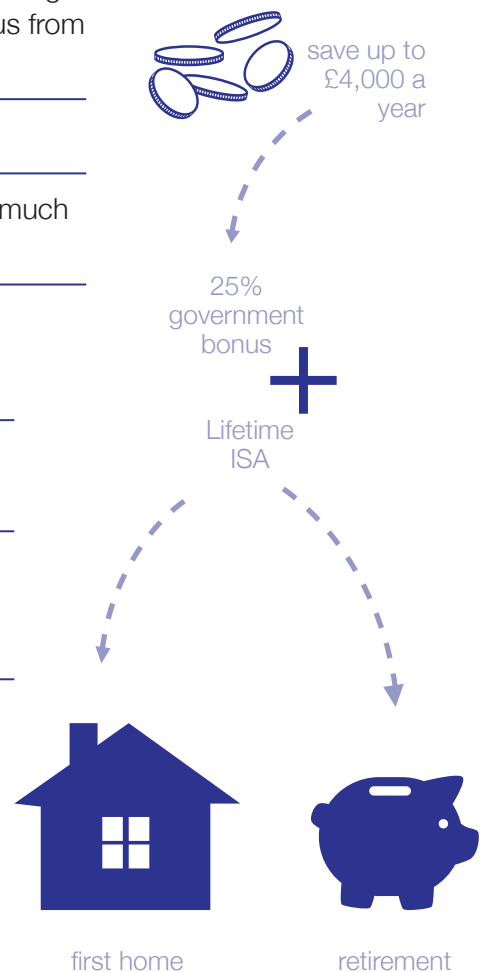
limits apply per person rather than per household – so two first time buyers can both use their savings (including the bonus) when buying together

if you have a Help to Buy: ISA you can transfer those savings into the Lifetime ISA in 2017-18, or continue saving into both – but you will only be able to use the bonus from one to buy a house


use it to save for retirement

after your 60th birthday you can take out all the savings (including the bonus) tax-free

you can withdraw the money at any other time, but you will pay a 25% charge - this recovers the government bonus and applies a small charge



7 Simple Steps for Winter Prep



Autumn Checks

- 1 Don't leave a hose in an outside tap. Before the cold weather sets in, isolate the water supply to it
- 2 Locate your stopcock so you can turn off your water in an emergency
- 3 Check that your heating is working correctly
- 4 Check your roof and guttering for damage and make sure overspill pipes are not trickling water

Winter Steps

- 5 In cold weather, keep your heating at a temperature of 15 degrees – even if you are away from home – to help with fuel economy and to prevent frozen pipes
- 6 Leave internal doors open to help keep the heat circulating around the house
- 7 Ask a trusted neighbour to look after your house keys if you are away so that access to your property can be made in an emergency. Make sure they have the CA number for emergencies

Call the CA Helpdesk on 0800 707 6000 Option 1

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Pictured is a XI Squadron FGR4 Typhoon during Exercise GRIFFIN STRIKE 2016. RAF Photographer.
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RAF RESERVES



By WO Shobha Earl, Command Warrant Officer Reserves



A Merlin helicopter hovers over Royal Air Force reservists with RAF Benson's 606 (Chiltern) Reserve Squadron during an Underslung Load Course at Benson airfield on 21st March 2013.



A reservist Gunner with 504 (County of Nottingham) Squadron, Royal Auxiliary Air Force fires a machine gun during two weeks Annual Continuous Training at Hythe Range Complex. The ranges teach the troops Close Quarter Marksmanship and live firing stages.

Imagery © MOD Crown Copyright 2016

The Royal Auxiliary Air Force (RAuxAF) owes its origin to Lord Trenchard's vision of an elite corps of civilians to form a part time volunteer air force and serve their country in their spare time on flying squadrons. Auxiliaries have been supporting the RAF and military operations since 1924. During the Battle of Britain five RAuxAF day-fighter Sqns were amongst the ten top scoring squadrons (out of about 60 squadrons that took part). An extraordinary performance from squadrons only made up from part time 'gentlemen amateurs' in comparison with the regular crews of the RAF.

Today's RAuxAF is encompassed with the RAF Reserves and continues to exist to support the RAF on operations and other tasks, at home and abroad and at all scales of effort. The size of the Reserves has dramatically increased and expanded into UK Geographical areas where there has been no recent RAF presence. Every reservist has a clearly defined role and task within the UK's military forces and form an integral part of the 'RAF Whole Force'. The RAF currently employ over 2,500 personnel on 27 Sqns in 20 locations. Reservists are employed on various contracts ranging from:

- part time volunteer reservists (PTVRs) reporting for 27-35 days annual training
- full time reservists (FTRS) and part time reservists (ADC) employed for 30-180 days
- Sponsored reservists (specialists who are called up for specific operations).

Successful recruitment campaigns have ensured that the Future Reserves 2020 (FR20) goal of 3118 RAF Reservists is on target. RAF Reserves new recruits undertake a Basic Recruit Training

Course (BRTC) over a 15 day period and can participate in joint graduations at RAF Halton alongside regular recruits on completion of the basic recruit training.

Reservists then progress to supervised trade training undertaken at specialist trade schools and some elements delivered locally at squadrons. The current focus is now on the retention of trained reservists and making best use of the experience reservists are gaining, both through training and deployments within the Whole Force.

RAF Reserves Sqns have delivered outstanding support to operations since 2003 on OP TELIC, OP HERRICK, OP ELLAMY & OP OLYMPICS and more recently on OP SHADER, GRITROCK, KIPION, MONOGRAM & TORAL as well as Defence Engagement. Reservists support the delivery of assured capability across all RAF tasks at home and abroad. At any one time 10-15 % of combat ready reservists are mobilised for deployed ops. 5000 man-days of routine support is provided throughout the RAF through routine utility in support of a variety of tasks and Ceremonial events alongside the regulars.

As the Whole Force matures and the Service develops better ways of integrating our manpower pool in support of RAF outputs both at home and overseas, it is now befitting that reservist personnel are indistinguishable from their regular counterparts in all aspects of their service activity. As a result, authority was recently granted to remove the requirement for identifying auxiliary insignia 'A' badges on all orders of service dress.

More information
raf.mod.uk/recruitment/lifestyle-benefits/life-as-a-reserve/ 

Are you a family leaving the ROYAL AIR FORCE?



Louise Briggs

The RAF FF is starting a new two year project, with funding from the Forces in Mind Trust, looking at families' experiences of the transition process from RAF to civilian life. We want to build our expertise and gather evidence of how the process works (or doesn't!) by working with RAF families, following your experiences to develop a toolkit of support and recommendations for improvement.

We are at an early stage but if your serving spouse/partner is leaving the RAF within the next two years or so, and you think you would like to be involved,

then we would love to hear from you! You can get in touch with our new Transition Liaison Manager, Louise Briggs, via email on louise.briggs@raf-ff.org.uk or telephone on 01780 781650. We will be working on setting up some web resources to support our work, so watch for updates here in Envoy or register to receive our eBULLETIN for the latest progress: raf-ff.org.uk/envoymagazine-subscribe 

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SSAFA, the Armed Forces charity, provides lifelong support to regulars and reserves, who are serving or have ever served in the British Army, the Royal Navy, the Royal Marines and the Royal Air Force and their families.

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Life as a Part Time Reservist

By Todd Fellows, RAF FF Reservist specialist

SAC Gemma Davis is one of 2630 personnel¹ currently Serving as a Part Time Volunteer Reservist (PTVR) on an Auxiliary Logistics Squadron. SAC Davis (38), a mother, grandmother and guardian of six children, talks to Todd Fellows on what life is like for her as part of No. 504 Sqn RAuxAF at RAF Wittering but soon to be deployed to RAF Waddington.

SAC Davis joined the RAuxAF in October 2014, having had no previous military experience. The Squadron consists of three flights of logisticians: Drivers, suppliers and chefs.

Gemma is due to be mobilized and deployed as a logistics Driver to RAF Waddington to 'back-fill' for regular personnel who are deployed on various operations around the world.

On asking Gemma what she was looking forward to most in her first deployment, working full time alongside the regulars, she replied:

"I am looking forward to putting into practice the training I have received. I will be nervous initially, and I want to know if I can perform as required when the time comes. I will be living-in at RAF Waddington during the working week, which will include weekends and shift work but that will allow me to take a full and active part in service life while I am there."

Asked what made Gemma want to join the RAF Reserves, she said:

"I have always had the feeling that I am capable of achieving more and by being a Reservist, it has helped me to gain a great sense of self. The inner happiness that I have felt from the achievement of my goals and, more importantly the ability to demonstrate to my children that if you want something, anything is achievable."

Mechanical Transport Officer (MTO), WO Linda Hughes, who is currently Gemma's line manager says:

"SAC Davis has been part of the team at RAF Waddington since September and has been an invaluable member. Tasked on a myriad of jobs she has driven coaches, LGVs, covered night shifts with her civilian counterparts and driven the Station Commander on numerous occasions. Always smiling and happy to please she has been a pleasant addition to the team and has received laudatory comments from the Execs. Working with the RAuxAF has been a fantastic experience for the MT personnel at Waddington and proves that there is no difference between regulars and reserves; we are all good at our jobs and come together to make the perfect team!"

Graduating

SAC Davis completed her two weeks' basic training course at RAF Halton in May 2015 and went back again in the September to take part in her formal graduation alongside regulars and other members of the RAuxAF. Members of 504 Squadron's management team, together with her family were also there to witness this momentous occasion. This was the culmination of a lot of hard work and also the start of a different life to the one she was used to.

On her general trade training, Gemma commented on thoroughly enjoying every minute of the training undertaken. With some trepidation to start with, she soon found her feet and was rightfully proud of completing the courses. She especially enjoyed her time at Normandy Barracks, or as some of us oldies will know it, RAF Leconfield, the Defence School of Transport. A little worried at first, being a Reservist, in the RAF and female, she was somewhat daunted by her first foray into the world of the Army. However, she needn't have worried. She thoroughly enjoyed her time there, "it was a great feeling, not just being part of the RAuxAF, but also a welcomed and valued member of the British Armed Forces. We just seemed to help each other through it."

Great support at home

With six children at home, ranging from 5 year old Brooke through to 20 year old Roy, with Emily, Gracie, Mary and Terry in between, Gemma wouldn't be able

to manage her career if it wasn't for the support of husband, Roy.

"Roy has been extremely supportive and if he wasn't around to do a lot more of the domestic chores, school runs, not to mention cover the many meal times, I wouldn't be able to join the Reserves."

The highlights

On asking Gemma what she had enjoyed the most so far in her Air Force career, she replied: "Meeting a lot of different people, from a lot of different backgrounds, who have the same goals in life as well as the camaraderie."

These are the same sentiments we have received from personnel of the RAux AF completing the RAF FF survey into 'Life in the RAux AF' and subsequent reports we published over the last 2 years which can be found at raf-ff.org.uk/reports. Either view the report online or call us on 01780 781650 for a hard copy of the 40-page booklet.

Further reading on 504 Sqn RAuxAF:
raf.mod.uk/rafwittering/aboutus/504sqnrauxaf.cfm

Quick Facts:

504 Squadron was originally a Special Reserve unit formed at Hucknall on 26th March 1928 as a day bomber squadron.

It was then transferred to the Royal Auxiliary Air Force on 18th May 1936. On 31st October 1938 504 sqn received Hurricanes in March 1939 and became a fighter squadron

On the 1st January 1998, the Offensive Support Role Support Squadron (OSRSS) was formed at RAF Cottesmore. This was then renamed 504 Squadron on 1st October 1999. On 1st October 2000 the reformation was celebrated with a march past in Nottingham. Although 504 Squadron no longer has a flying role, its importance as an asset to the RAF is no less than it was before. On closure of RAF Cottesmore, the Squadron transferred to its current home in RAF Wittering where it re-rolled to a Logistics Support Squadron in 2013. As part of an Operational Support Squadron (OSS), the

first role of 504 Sqn was Force Protection (FP). To this end, approximately 60% of the personnel were RAF Regiment gunners providing ground defence for all assets on deployed operations, seeing squadron personnel serving in both Iraq and Afghanistan. The remaining personnel were responsible for the many other duties including; Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) warning and reporting, airbase shelter marshalling and general sentry duties. Elements of the squadron have been operational in Afghanistan.

During 2014, the Squadron re-rolled from Force Protection to Logistics. ●



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¹UK Armed Forces Monthly Service Personnel Statistics, September 2016 – GOV.UK

2016 RAuxAF Survey Report

If you are a member of the Royal Auxiliary Air Force, you need to read the results of our RAuxAF survey, conducted earlier this year. Find out what we published on your behalf online at raf-ff.org.uk/reports - or you can contact the team for your own hard copy. Simply call us on 01780 781650 or email enquiries@raf-ff.org.uk. We've sent hard copies to all RAuxAF squadrons and to staff at MOD and HQ Air too. We would also appreciate your feedback, whether good or bad.

Why do these surveys?

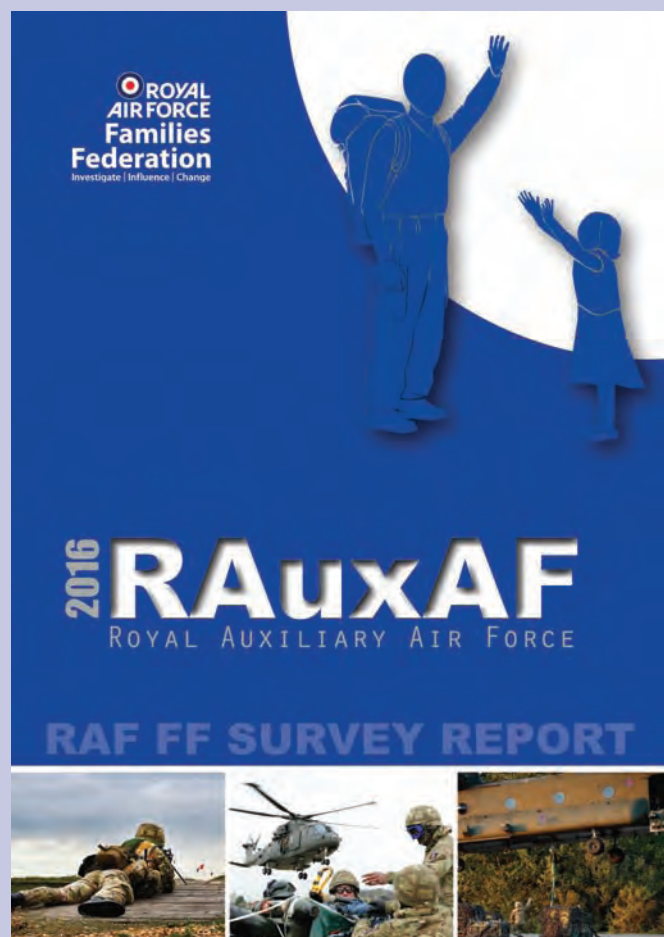
All our surveys are anonymous and provide the 'powers that be' with a snapshot of what you think is working well, what is not working well and what you'd like to see changed for the better. Along with the findings from FAMCAS and AFCAS, from AMP Briefing Team reports and from CASWO's visits, our survey reports are a piece of an important jigsaw that presents to the RAF's Senior Leadership Team, to MOD senior staff and to Government Ministers a picture of your issues and concerns. We cannot make policy but we can use our reports – based on your responses – to help influence for the better the right things.

Evidence Manager, Colin Jones adds:

"For all our surveys, whatever the subject, the more of you who complete them, the louder the voice we can provide"

"We've seen a 70% increase in response rates this year, which is fantastic. Please keep talking to us."

****Remember that silence is often regarded as satisfaction****



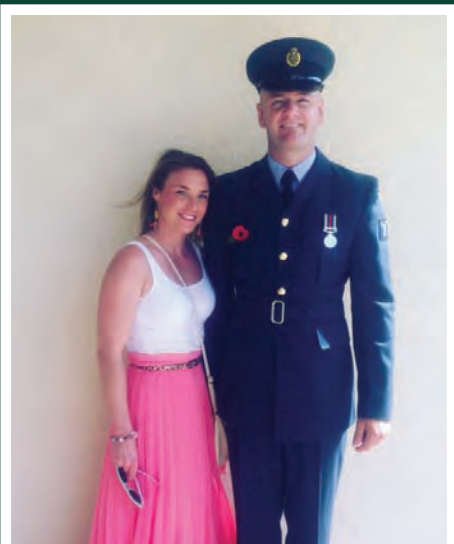
SPOUSE EMPLOYMENT SUPPORT TRIAL SUCCESS

Samantha Drew is currently based with her husband in Cyprus and has taken full advantage of the MOD's Spouse Employment Support Trial in order to develop her career in fitness.



Tell us a bit about yourself...

I'm 30 years old and am originally from Stourbridge in the Midlands. I met my husband Craig five years ago and we have been married for four years. We lived at RAF Brize Norton and RAF Odiham before arriving at RAF Akrotiri in January 2015. I have absolutely loved the transition into military life and deem it to be a positive and varied environment. I have loved moving to different camps, making new friends, and experiencing second hand what the military has to offer us as a couple. Of course supporting my husband in his quest to serve the country and further himself in the Armed Forces is my number one priority but I felt at the age of 30 years old I knew what I wanted from life, felt settled and had a burning desire to educate myself.



Where did you hear about the trial?

I wanted to use my time here in Cyprus wisely by furthering myself and my career, but wasn't sure exactly how to go about it. As I am currently overseas I thought my options might be limited. Whilst exploring the possibilities initially through the Joint Educational and Training Services (JETS) Academy, I was made aware of the MOD's Spouse Employment Support Trial, which included funding for vocational training, and immediately called to register. I then began to think about the training I wanted to do: I have always been involved in fitness from an early age and am a keen weight lifter, so I knew that I wanted to do something in that sector.

As part of the programme, I was put in touch with my career consultant,



Anthony and we then started to explore how I could go about studying fitness, and identified a personal trainer course that suited my needs perfectly.

How have you felt about the support so far?

Fantastic! From the application stage to the careers advice to the funding from the finance team it has been efficient and effective. From the day I put my application in to getting started on my course it took around six weeks.

I was able to work with my consultant Anthony to create a Spouse Development Plan (SDP) to record my goals and actions, and also had access to the CTP's website and online resources. Anthony's advice was vital in enabling me to pick the right company to study with, as in the beginning I had no clue how I was going to study – especially being overseas and



not having access to UK classrooms. The company I have decided to study with fully support me through online learning and are aware that I am the wife of a serving person so work around me completely. They have clear material, and are available on Skype or by phone to support me.

In addition to this support, I made the PEd staff at RAF Akrotiri aware that I was studying to be one of them in the civilian world and I have had amazing support from them also. I have had access to observe them doing their jobs, which has aided my learning even further.

Why personal fitness?

I have always been involved in fitness: I used to run for an athletic club in the Midlands and my parents were extremely active with me as a child which has carried through to my adult life. For me fitness, nutrition and health are just part of everyday life. I would say my love for weight training has grown in the last three years and the positive effects have just spurred my desire to make it a living. I want to be able to do something I love every day and make a difference to people's education, and I feel that fitness is an important part of ensuring we, as humans live a longer, healthier life.

What are your thoughts about employment in returning to the UK?

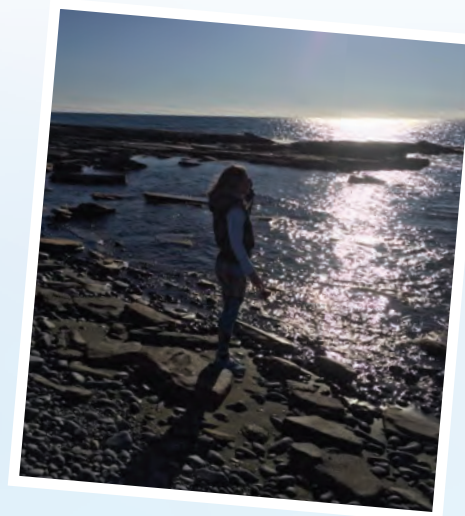
100% positive! Although I am not fully qualified as a personal trainer just yet I like to look to see what is available online. There are many employment opportunities for me once I return to the UK and of course without the MOD's help to fund my training I wouldn't be able to return to the UK and do what I love. In the past I have been a jack of all trades working in property, sales and travel. Although I have enjoyed my colourful past I can't begin to tell you how happy I am now that I have been given this opportunity to do something I feel passionately about.

What ongoing support do you think you may need or want?

My aim is to be fully qualified by the time I return to the UK in January 2018. I am a complete go-getter in life so I know I will get a job in the fitness industry once I am back in the UK. It is also comforting to know that if I needed assistance I know I could approach the spousal support programme to aid me in CV writing and interview techniques, so even after learning the support never stops.

How do you feel about the future?

Completely excited. I can't wait to finish my studies and be able to do a job I love back in the UK – finally! But first I have to get my exams passed and enjoy the rest of what Cyprus has to offer! My advice? Register for the programme, use your career consultant's knowledge to make a clear decision that is right for you and have in mind what you want to do. Once you have made your mind up absolutely go for it – be motivated – further yourself! Thank you so much to MOD and all who have helped me as part of the trial, for assisting me to do better in my life! ●



There are a range of opportunities out there for spouses and civil partners. The next page shares a useful infographic on what's available and how you can get involved.

Snapshot of NEM

(September 2016 Edition - 4th PEP Edition)
Partner Employment Programme - How Goes It?

**Please
Take Me
Home!**

Spouse Employment Support Trial (Oct 2015 - Oct 17)

What is it?

Tailored employment and employability support:

- Trials running in Cyprus and across selected UK locations
- Career Transition Partnership (CTP) contract delivered by Right Management Ltd
- Open to eligible spouses* of Regular service personnel and FTRS FC
- Places are subject to availability and eligibility criteria

How does it work?

Military spouses have an initial interview to develop a Spouse Development Plan. Depending on the needs of the individual this might include:

- A career consultancy and job finding service
- Access to job readiness support such as CV writing, networking and interview skills
- Self employment and business start up support
- Career options advice
- Career change advice

"The support I am receiving gives me focus and confidence in my new venture. I am looking forward to accessing the business advice from Wolverhampton when I reach that stage."

Caroline,
RAF Boscom

"Being a military wife and seeking fresh challenges the programme has given me a stepping stone to retrain in a completely different job role."

Emma,
RAF Leeming

"The offer of on-going support with building our CVs is just fantastic and makes me feel like I'm not completely 'going it alone'."

Amy, Cyprus

"From the application stage to the careers advice to the funding from the finance team it has been efficient and effective"

Sumantha,
Cyprus

"I feel very lucky to take part in this workshop and learned how to be confident about what I'm capable of"

Rae-Anne,
Cyprus

"The one day workshop was a great confidence booster as it highlighted transferable skills I never realised I had!"

Cheryl,
RAF Leeming



LifeWorks Families (Oct 2013 - 19)

What is it?

- Free advice and support specifically for military spouses*
- Support by phone, email and through courses
- Provided by Royal British Legion Industries
- Open to dependants of serving or recently discharged Regulars and Reservists

How does it work?

Employability Coaches can help military spouses to:

- Identify potential career and training opportunities
- Understand and manage the impact of a change in a location or situation
- Increase confidence and motivation for future employment
- Develop key skills and tools, including job searching
- Develop CV writing, interview skills and completing application forms

For course dates or to access remote support with CVs and interview skills, visit www.lifeatworkfamilies.co.uk or for more information see 2013DIN01-234** or Tel: 0800 319 6844 (UK) or +44 (0)1622 795997 (Abroad)

In addition, RBL also offer 3-day LifeWorks courses aimed at ex-Armed Forces personnel



Business Start-Up Programme (Sep 2013 - 20)

What is it?

- Free course and mentor programme specifically for military spouses*
- Funded by Armed Forces Covenant (LBR) and HSB
- Developed specifically for the Armed Forces
- Dependents of Regulars, Veterans and Reservists are eligible
- Consists of a 4-day residential course combined with...
- A seven month mentoring programme including individual sessions with a business adviser (face-to-face, telephone or Skype) and group sessions with other Service dependants led by business advisers at Wolverhampton Business Solutions Centre

For further details and to register for the Business Start-Up programme contact the Armed Forces Coordinator on mod-enquiries@wlv.ac.uk or 01902 321677 (please include a contact telephone number with your enquiry), www.wlv.ac.uk/study-here/fm-armed-forces/business-startup-courses/dependants-businessstart-up-programme or see 2013DIN01-234**

Free follow-on online business training, advice and mentoring is provided by Forces Enterprise Network in partnership with University of Wolverhampton.



*The terms 'spouse' and 'civil partner' are used interchangeably. Where the term 'spouse' is used, 'civil partner' may apply instead.
** Defence Instructions and Notices (DINs), Joint Service Publications (JSPs) and RAF Internal Briefing Notes (IBNs) can be accessed by Service personnel via the Defence Intranet.

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Bovis Homes has developments **throughout England**, including a number that are **close to major military bases**, where we have a range of homes from **2 to 6 bedroom properties** in attractive locations.

For further information about the schemes and where we are building, please go to – **bovishomes.co.uk**

The **Armed Forces** purchase scheme is listed within the 'Need help to Move' section and you can find the nearest development to you through our 'search for a new home'



bovishomes.co.uk



*The Bovis Homes Armed Forces Discount Scheme has specific terms and conditions. Help to Buy Equity Loan and Forces Help to Buy have specific terms and conditions and are subject to affordability criteria as prescribed by the Homes and Communities Agency and the Ministry of Defence. Cannot be used in conjunction with any other offers or promotions. Please ask your sales advisor for further information. Photograph shown depicts a typical Bovis Homes interior. YOUR HOME MAY BE REPOSSESSED IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR ANY OTHER DEBT SECURED ON IT.

There is 'NO ORDINARY JOB' in the RAF

The Royal Air Force offers more than 50 different job roles and apprenticeships for young people from the age of 16. With everything from chef and catering to technical and engineering opportunities - the options available are diverse no matter how you performed in your GCSEs or A-Levels.

But the RAF is more than just a career choice - it is a lifestyle, with limitless boundaries to explore the world, all while being paid a competitive wage to work alongside colleagues who quickly become friends.

You could be travelling the world with a famous aerobatic team before the age of 18 or in charge of 12 Eurofighter Typhoons that help keep Britain safe before you have even reached 30.

Whether you are looking for an apprenticeship to put money in your pocket and further your education or already have your sights on a long-term career as an RAF engineer or fast-jet pilot - the RAF really is No Ordinary Job.

Find out what's so great about our job roles by reading the stories of those who live them on a daily basis...

SAC Ellie Morgan

When Ellie decided that A-Levels weren't for her at the age of 17, she began to look at other options. 18 months later and she now finds herself working as an Aircraft Mechanic with the world famous RAF Aerobatic Team - the Red Arrows.



So how did everything change so quickly? And what's next for a young servicewoman with the world at her feet? Read Ellie's story below...

"I left education at the age of 17 after finishing my first year of A-Levels and deciding education was just no longer for me. Two years later and I find myself working with the Red Arrows!

"After applying to join the RAF I completed a 10 week basic training course at RAF Halton, which taught me standard military skills and set me up for the next stage of my career. Before I got my first proper posting (job) with the RAF I also completed a six month trade training course which taught me the technical side of the job. The courses set you up for the rest of your career and you are taught everything you need to know, so you don't require an engineering background before joining."

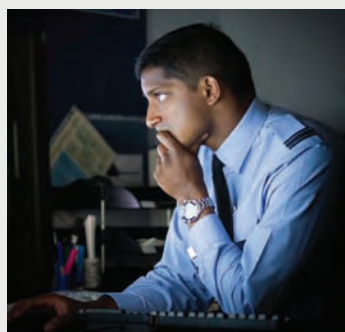
"I was posted straight to the Red Arrows at the end of my training, which was a complete shock but a posting that I was very happy with. I currently travel all over the world with the team and am mainly involved in the servicing of the aircraft; working alongside the engineers. I also work closely with Team Leader, Red 1 - Squadron Leader Dave Montenegro.

"My family are extremely proud that I decided to join the RAF and my dad loves that I am part of the Red Arrows, so is forever talking about it and posting things on social media! It feels great to know that my parents are proud of me so early in my career.

"In the future I want to continue to travel with the RAF - both overseas and around the UK. I am only 19, so still have my whole career ahead of me. If I could choose my next posting it would be to a squadron to work on fast-jets such as Lossiemouth in Scotland, where they have both the Tornado and Typhoon. But for now I am more than happy travelling the world with the Red Arrows!"

Flight Lieutenant Harry Gopalakrishnan (Lucky)

Flight Lieutenant Harry Gopalakrishnan, also known as Lucky, always knew that he wanted to join the Royal Air Force. Lucky's interest in the Royal Air Force started aged 15 when a RAF Liaison Officer visited his school and gave a talk on career options.



Now aged 27, Harry is flying-high in the RAF as an Engineer Officer based at RAF Coningsby in Lincolnshire. So what is it like to be in command of 12 Eurofighter Typhoons before you have even reached the age of 30? Read Lucky's story below...

"I decided I wanted to join the RAF before I had even sat my GCSEs. An RAF Liaison Officer visited my school and the information about the lifestyle of the air force was enough to make me sit up and find out more.

"At Sixth-Form I was offered to be put forward for selection to receive RAF sponsorship. After fitness, aptitude and leadership assessments, I eventually received a bursary for university with a place on RAF Initial Officer Training (IOT) after my university graduation."

"My parents supported me: as refugees from the 1980s Sri Lankan civil war, they saw this as a chance to give back to a country that had given our family so much.

"Today I am the Junior Engineering Officer for a Squadron of Eurofighter Typhoon aircraft; responsible for their engineering and for the 120 personnel who keep the aircraft flying. The squadron's role includes holding Quick Reaction Alert (QRA) ensuring the RAF has aircraft armed and ready to take-off at a moment's notice to defend the skies of our country from hostile aircraft.

"The benefits which come with the RAF really are what you make of them, including opportunities such as playing sport, going on adventurous training expeditions and furthering your education.

"I can see a path of roles that I would love to take as my career progresses - either as the Senior Engineering Officer of a squadron deployed on operations, or by becoming the lead Engineering Officer on a RAF Station. As long as my future roles continue to give me the opportunity to command personnel, I can see myself fulfilling a hopefully distinguished career in the Royal Air Force."

The Royal Air Force's latest advertising campaign #NoOrdinaryJob is now live on social media or by visiting www.raf.mod.uk/recruitment. Visit the website or the RAF Facebook and Twitter accounts to watch videos of Ellie and Lucky show you why their role in the RAF is #NoOrdinaryJob.



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Representatives of the RAF Police Rugby team, who are sponsored by Bovis Homes and were guests on the day.

BOVIS HOMES LAUNCHES ARMED FORCES DISCOUNT SCHEME

House builder Bovis Homes has launched a new discount scheme aimed at helping forces personnel onto the property ladder.

The company is one of the UK's leading house builders, building more than 4,000 new homes across over 100 locations in

England every year and has a long history of supporting the UK Armed Forces.

In its latest move to support the Forces, Bovis Homes formally launched the *All Inclusive Armed Forces Discount Scheme* in September at a special event

hosted by Exeter Rugby Club. It was at this event that Bovis Homes also became official signatories of the Armed Forces Covenant alongside the rugby club.

So how does the scheme work?

The discount scheme includes money off the cost of a Bovis home (£500 for every £25,000 spent), a £500 contribution towards legal costs and a package of extras which includes carpets and flooring, curtains and blinds and integrated kitchen appliances. This means that when you move in, all you need to bring is furniture.

When combined with the Forces Help to Buy initiative* and Government-backed Help to Buy equity loan, it forms what Bovis Homes is calling **'Trinity'**, a package exclusive to the company. With Trinity, service-personnel can benefit from an advance from the Forces towards their deposit, an equity loan from the Government which can help to reduce potential mortgage costs and Bovis Homes' unique discount, making buying easier and more affordable than ever for Forces personnel.



David Ritchie, Chief Executive of Bovis Homes addressing guests at the event.



(L-R) Tony Rowe OBE, Chairman, Exeter Rugby Club, Colonel Ewen Murchison, Lt Gen Sir John Lorimer, Air Marshal Phillip Osborn and David Ritchie, Chief Executive of Bovis Homes.

The scheme is open to serving members of the UK Armed Forces, as well as active reservists.

Where is the scheme available?

Bovis Homes is currently building at over 100 locations across England, stretching from Cornwall to Kent and from Hampshire to Cheshire. The scheme is available at each of these sites to any serviceman or woman who qualifies.

This includes a number of developments which are close to major military installations such as RAF Cosford in Shropshire, which is less than five miles from Bovis Homes' Iddeshale Gardens development and RAF St Mawgan, a 30 minute drive from the company's Trelowen site in Truro.

Why has Bovis Homes decided to offer the scheme?

Bovis Homes has a proud history of supporting the UK Armed Forces and already works with the Career Transition Partnership (CTP) helping ex-servicemen and women to find new roles in construction. But it is always looking for new ways to support the Forces where it can.

And with many service-personnel having never purchased a home before, the process and costs can seem quite daunting.

So Bovis Homes drew on its strong links with the Armed Forces to develop a scheme that could make buying a home simpler and more affordable and play a role in easing the transition into civilian life.

How can you take advantage of the scheme?

Those interested in purchasing a brand new Bovis home through the *All Inclusive Armed Forces Discount Scheme* can find out more by going to bovishomes.co.uk/information-on/schemes-for-the-armed-forces/, or by visiting any of the Bovis Homes site sales offices across the country:

<http://www.bovishomes.co.uk/map> 

*separate T&Cs and qualification criteria apply

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David



“ When I needed help to get back to work after being medically discharged from service, the RAF Association was there for me. ”

SAC(T) Paul Case

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Or contact your local branch – you'll find details on our website



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Not all heroes are human



By Lauren Park, RAF Association



The RAF Association provides friendship to all members of the RAF family, proudly championing their achievements. Of course military working dogs (MWD) are not eligible for welfare support, but their important role in RAF operations past and present is worthy of recognition. For this reason the RAF Police have nominated a number of dogs to become part of our RAF Association family.

Our hero dog is Sooty the Cocker Spaniel, who was deployed in Afghanistan in 2012 with Sergeant 'Damo' Heartford.

Damo says: "Op HERRICK 18 was an extremely arduous tour for arms and explosives dog teams. Sooty soon ramped up a number of finds, identifying numerous improvised explosive devices (IEDs) and weapon caches. He also proved extremely efficient in providing a 'safe path' on patrol or while out on targeted ops, often locating buried IEDs which were then marked for avoidance by the following troops.

"However we were involved in several incidents which, looking back, sadly

affected Sooty. As the tour progressed he would sometimes show signs of reluctance while on the ground and at times had to be carried between searches. When in harness, Sooty was still eager to work and was thankfully still getting results."

After an assessment, it was concluded that due to Sooty and Damo's strong bond Sooty could, with regular oversight, remain operational. After returning to Brize Norton, and following a good rest, it was time for Sooty to get back to 'normal' work. Unfortunately, Damo soon noticed that Sooty became unnerved by certain things and wasn't comfortable in what he considered normal circumstances.

Following further assessments by the Provost Marshal's Dog Inspectorate and then the Defence Animal Centre in Melton Mowbray, Sooty was retired from service and diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). MWD Sooty was now Mr Sooty!


Overnight Sooty went from living in a kennel on his own to being a member of Damo's family with two other dogs and a toddler. Gradually he adapted

and has learned that there are certain boundaries, although he still doesn't recognise all of them. He still has no concept of personal space and has to be involved with everything. His PTSD has been hard work at times, especially when, without warning, he would lie down and refuse to walk.

Damo continued: "Sooty is proving to be a great family pet and has fitted in well to our hectic household, which now includes another child. He still suffers from PTSD and there is no rhyme or reason behind what affects him. It is difficult to predict what could affect him in the future, as obvious triggers, such as fireworks, don't seem as bad as random things like a squeaky toy.

"Sooty has given so much, saving countless lives while operational in Afghanistan and is now able to enjoy his retirement. Although I believe it will always be with him, Sooty copes well with his PTSD."

Sooty truly is a canine hero and we wish him an enjoyable retirement.

To find out how the RAF Association helps all of the RAF family, visit: rafa.org.uk/what-we-do/. 

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ORIENTEERING COURSE AT RAF LEEMING GIVES COMPETITORS **THE RUN AROUND**

Orienteers from the Military League North viewed RAF Leeming in a new light when they took part in the Station's first competition in the sport.

The event attracted more than one hundred competitors from across the region to navigate their way round three courses designed to challenge experienced orienteers as well as those trying the sport for the first time.

It was organised by Sqn Ldr Rachel Sullivan and Chris Poole, who are based at the North Yorkshire Station as well as being experienced and successful orienteers in their own right. Chris said: "For me, there is a technical challenge and I also enjoy the running. You can go to such beautiful places and I have done orienteering all over the world."

Whilst orienteering is often associated with runs through woodlands, the RAF Leeming event focused on the increasingly popular urban side of the sport, which can provide fast and intense navigation and challenge a different set of skills. Chris said: "It's slightly more technical and very much about route choice – which could be down to which side to run around a building. There might not even be much difference in the distance – but the time taken to make that decision could win or lose a race." ●



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ONE YEAR ON AS THE MOD ICE App goes from STRENGTH TO STRENGTH

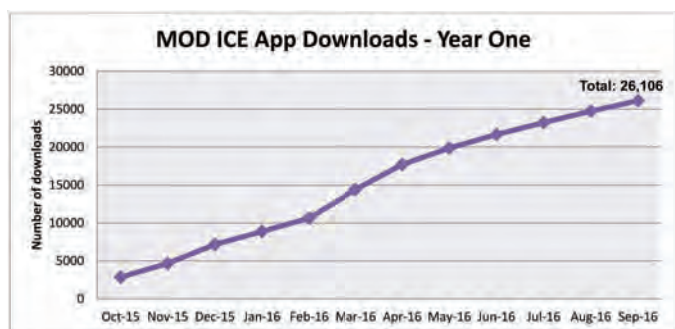
It's been 12 months since its launch but the headline news is that the download figures for the MOD ICE (In Case of Emergency) app are showing no signs of waning.



The app, which has been developed by the Ministry of Defence's Joint Casualty and Compassionate Centre (JCCC), has now been downloaded over 25,000 times by British service personnel and their families since its launch in October 2015.

The question is: **Have you downloaded yours?** If not then found out how below.

Since its inception, the MOD ICE has reached 26,106* downloads in just twelve months, but the aim is for all members of the British Armed Forces and their families to have the app on their phone or mobile device.



How to download

The MOD ICE app is available from the Defence Gateway internet site: www.defencegateway.mod.uk

To download MOD ICE for Apple or Android devices, Service Personnel need to visit Defence Gateway on the mobile device that they wish to host the app. From either app store, they can download the free app and then repeat the action with the relevant devices of family members. MOD ICE can be downloaded multiple times from the same Defence Gateway account.

Once downloaded, the Service Person's name, rank and service number, together with the most relevant welfare officer's details are entered into the app. It's then ready for

use by both the Service Person and their wider family at any time of day or night – whenever it is needed.

The work of the JCCC

The JCCC, part of Defence Business Services (DBS), is the authority for casualty and compassionate management (for those personnel serving overseas) in respect of members of the British Armed Forces at any time. JCCC take immediate action for service personnel and their families when an emergency occurs. They also offer immediate support 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to all in uniform and their loved ones should an incident occur.

As part of the JCCC's work, the team developed the MOD ICE app that offers a 'click to call' facility to direct the user to the most appropriate source of help if they are faced with a family emergency. The app guides the user to the correct point of contact even if the emergency is to be managed outside of JCCC's remit, for example by Service welfare or a charity partner.



Once downloaded to a mobile phone or device, the JCCC 'MOD ICE' app provides a very simplistic 'click to call' facility that will direct the user to the most appropriate organisation if they are faced with a family emergency.

It is imperative that Service Personnel keep their Emergency Contact and Next of Kin details on Joint Personnel Administration (JPA) up to date and make and maintain a current Will. To note, MOD ICE runs alongside the JPA P001 card.

Be a part of it – download the MOD ICE app now!

*The 26,106 download figure is based on up to and including the September 2016 download figures. ●



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New Help for Veterans with Anxiety and Depression



Royal Air Force
Benevolent Fund
THE HEART OF THE RAF FAMILY



Royal Air Force veterans and family members, ages 16-64, are receiving help to fight anxiety and depression, thanks to a new partnership between Anxiety UK and the Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund.

According to a recent report¹ published by the RAF Benevolent Fund, 11% of working age RAF veterans reported feeling depressed. More broadly, 14% of working age RAF veterans reported experiencing psychological difficulties in a one year period.

The RAF Benevolent Fund, the RAF's leading welfare charity, is partnering with Anxiety UK to provide specialised support for veterans and their family members, age 16-64, who are experiencing a number of psychological troubles including depression, anxiety, low mood, panic attacks, stress, low self-esteem, or low confidence.

Through this partnership, Anxiety UK will provide those who have served in the RAF and their families, of working age, with a variety of services and resources including:

- A dedicated helpline and email services to provide emotional support
- Self-help materials and annual membership to Anxiety UK
- Free counselling sessions for those experiencing anxiety and/or depression and meeting eligibility criteria

Those in need of support should call 0844 334 1550² or email rafsupport@anxietyuk.org.uk.

Anxiety UK's Chief Executive Nicky Lidbetter said: "We're extremely pleased to announce this new partnership with the RAF Benevolent Fund and to be able to support their beneficiaries by providing timely assistance and interventions for those affected by anxiety and anxiety based depression."

Former C-130 Hercules pilot Martin Oxborrow's RAF career came to an end when he suffered from severe anxiety and panic attacks which manifested itself in a fear of heights and flying. Martin, now 63, eventually sought help for his mental illness and is urging others in the RAF family to speak up and do the same.

"Obviously having a fear of heights and panic attacks was a real problem for a Hercules pilot!" says Martin. "At first I tried to carry on flying but I was completely stressed out and it started to affect my abilities.

"I was offered a lot of support from the RAF but it was hard to admit

something was wrong. I knew I couldn't carry on in my RAF career – which was devastating as it's all I'd ever wanted to do – and I was eventually discharged.

"I think this partnership with Anxiety UK is so important. I would urge anybody who has even the slightest inkling that something is wrong to use this service and get the help they need. Talk to someone, find treatment and keep fighting."

Air Commodore Paul Hughesdon, Director of Welfare & Policy for the RAF Benevolent Fund, added: "The RAF Benevolent Fund is delighted to be working with Anxiety UK to address a clear need within the RAF Family. There's no need for people to fear asking for help or trying to cope on their own. The services we're providing in partnership with Anxiety UK really can make an incredible difference to those in need."

At present, anxiety affects 15% of the UK population, with one in 10 adults experiencing a disabling anxiety disorder at some point in their life.³ While 2.6% of the population experience depression and 4.7% have anxiety problems, as many as 9.7% suffer mixed depression and anxiety, making it the most prevalent mental health problem in the population as a whole.⁴ ●

1. Meeting the Needs of the RAF Family, 2015

2. Telephone support available Monday to Friday, 9:30am to 5:30pm. Call charges will apply.

3. Ehlers, A. 'Anxiety disorders: Challenging negative thinking.' Quoted in the Wellcome Trust Reviews, 1997

4. <http://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/help-information/mental-health-statistics/anxiety-statistics/>



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Purchase Fee (included in monthly payments)	£10.00
Initial Payment	£310.78
47 Monthly Payments	£310.78
Final Payment	£17,205.00
Total Amount Payable	£34,700.66
Duration of Agreement	48 months
Representative APR%	6.9% APR
Interest Rate (Fixed)	6.68%



A YEAR OF BEAUTIFUL MILITARY MOMENTS



Squadron Leader Kevin Hindson, Penelope and Flight Sergeant Vicky Hindson.

Photos of five children who have parents serving in the Royal Air Force have been brought together with some from the other British Forces to form a special Military Moments calendar for 2017. The calendar, which is being launched by the charity Little Troopers, will raise money to help support over 150,000 children who have a parent serving for their country.

Louise Fetigan, Founder and Operations Manager of Little Troopers said: "This is the charity's fifth calendar, but the first to have photos from all three of our Armed Forces. The pictures show many of the emotions experienced by a Military family and some very cute babies showing their pride for their Serving Parent. We are

lucky to share some very special moments with our families through these images; it is a great privilege."

15 photos were selected for the calendar's pages and three were awarded special prizes. The winner of the competition's first prize was:

- Harvey-Logan Holt (12 months old in the photo) whose parents are both serving in the Royal Air Force. The photo of Harvey was taken at a very special photo shoot after Dad had just returned from another tour of duty. Mum Senior Aircraftwoman Lucy Holt (23) said "I'm completely over the moon that my little man has been chosen as your 2017 calendar winner. It feels amazing that I can

ring my husband who is currently deployed and tell him that his little man was this year's winner. We are super proud of him."

Others who feature in the calendar are:

- Jensen Harry Hodgkinson (20 months old) whose Daddy – Corporal Barrie Hodgkinson, 33 is based at RAF Honington will be on the front cover of the calendar. Mum Jenna Hodgkinson, 24 said, "It feels wonderful to be chosen as a winner, we absolutely adore these photos of our son and are thrilled that this one will be shared with the forces community."
- A gorgeous family photo of Penelope Hindson with her Mum Flight Sergeant Vicky Hindson, and Dad Squadron Leader Kevin Hindson will feature in August 2017. The picture was taken at the Alnwick Battle of Britain Parade in September 2015. Mum Vicky told us, "We are a military family and very proud to serve, it is fantastic to be selected and have our little trooper feature in this year's calendar!"
- Oscar Turner and Corporal Christopher who is currently serving on No 6 Squadron RAF Lossiemouth will be Master and Mr October. Mum Chloe Turner said, "The photo was taken during a family photo shoot when Oscar was just 7 months old. I entered it because it is one of my favourites. I'm ecstatic that it has been chosen for October. I never



© Total Photography

Jensen Harry Hodgkinson.

thought we would win, I was chuffed when we made the shortlist.”

- Teddy Woolls, 2yrs whose Daddy Corporal James Woolls, 29yrs is currently based on 51 RAF Regiment Squadron at RAF Lossiemouth will feature in December 2017. Mum Hannah Woolls said “I took this picture in the Summer when Teddy was in bed sleeping with his Huggable Hero of his Daddy. James was deployed at the time. We are absolutely over the moon to have our picture of Teddy chosen and our family and friends can’t wait to buy the calendar!”

The charity Little Troopers supports children with parents serving in the British Armed Forces. They provide fundamental resources, initiatives & events to ease & aid repeated separation periods, aiming to keep parent & child connected & bonded even when miles apart.

The Little Troopers: ‘Military Moments’ calendar will show a side of forces life very rarely shared. The fifth calendar (2017) will be on sale for £9.99 and can be ordered at:

LittleTroopers.net ●



Harvey-Logan Holt.



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Oscar Turner.



Teddy Woolls.



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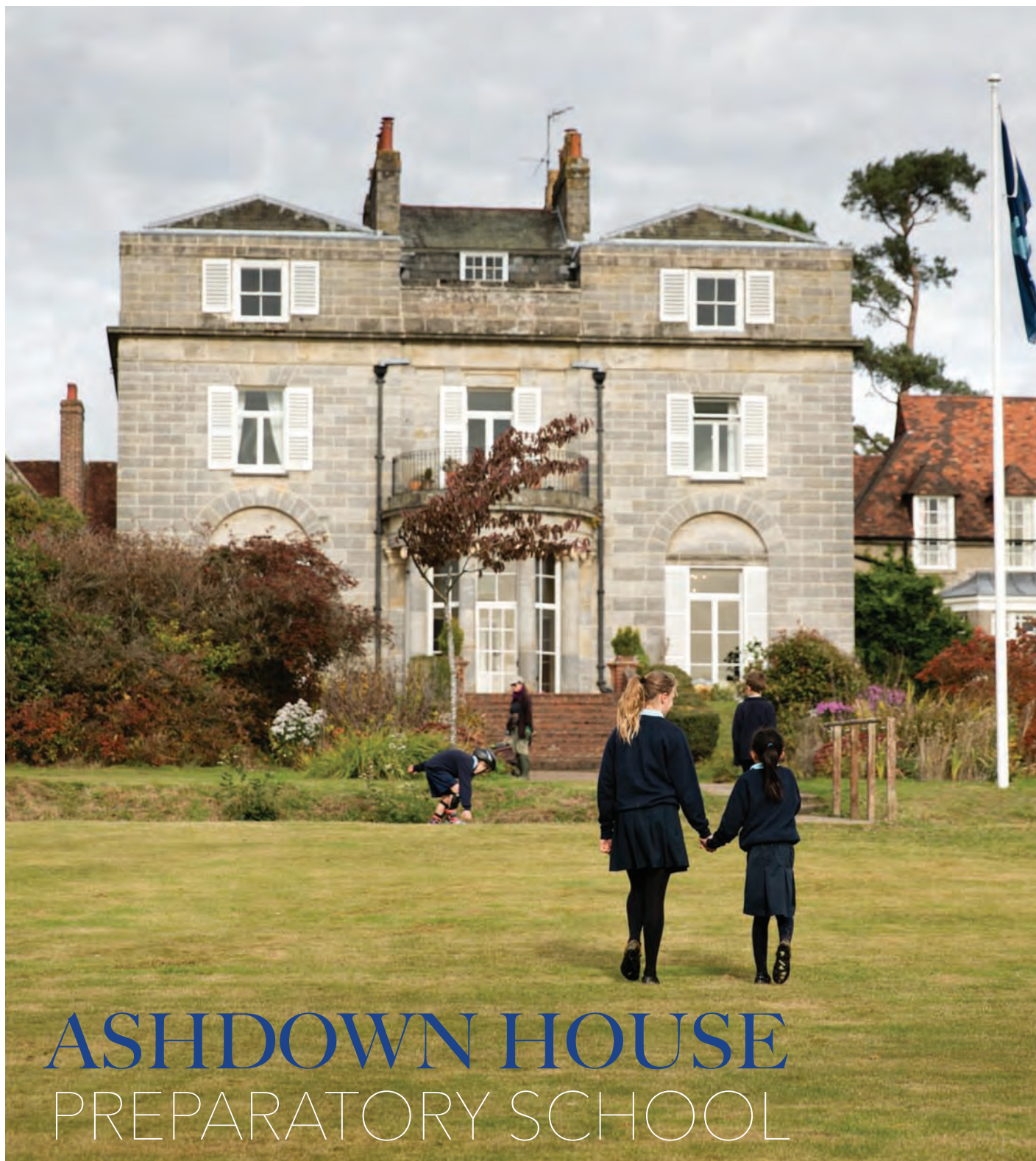
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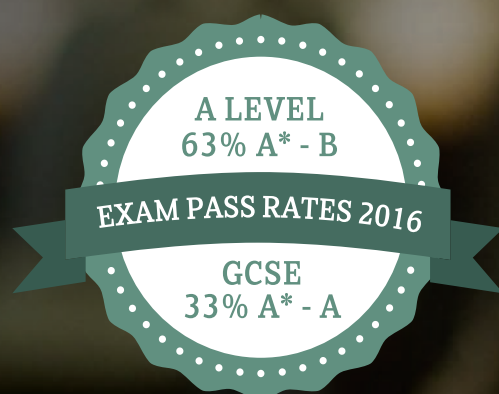


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