

**The Forces' favourite paper**

**All about Eve Jodie Comer on living with a psychopath**

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**Win Cult 80s TV series box set**

● R'n'R p3



**ROYAL AIR FORCE**

Friday **May 1** 2020  
No 1490 **70p**

# RAF News

**Football**  
**Icarus set to fly high**



● **Sport p23**

**Boxing**  
**Season end with Wakes**



● **Sport p24**

## Wanda woman

Warrant Officer leads Forces team in frontline corona fight

**Simon Mander**

**MILITARY TRAINING** is helping Warrant Officer Wanda Hughes and other Air Force medics battling alongside NHS nurses to save lives in the UK's war against coronavirus.

She is one of around 30 Princess Mary's RAF Nursing Service personnel working 12-hour shifts at Oxford's John Radcliffe Hospital.

"We are working alongside our NHS colleagues and our resilience and experience from operations provides the 'can do' attitude," she said.

"Working in full protective equipment is challenging but these hurdles are not uncommon to RAF medics who fly aeromedical evacuation missions."

As the RAF Director of Nursing Services Warrant Officer she advises on policy, recruitment and training and has an MSc in critical care.

But as the Covid-19 crisis escalated and the demand for intensive care nurses became critical, she and her RAF colleagues volunteered, working gruelling hours in

addition to their military duties.

"Working on the frontline gives us an understanding of the challenges our NHS nurses are facing," she said.

"Taking off your protective equipment after a shift, dehydrated, exhausted and with your face marked is overshadowed by the extraordinary teamwork. I'm proud to be a RAF nurse. Morale is high and support from everyone in the hospital is amazing."

"All medical staff have individual-issue respirators to ensure there is adequate PPE."

"The public reaction has been humbling and inspiring, from the clapping on a Thursday to generous gifts of food and drinks that the unit is given daily."

"Members of the public are even making washable bags so we can take home our uniform safely. It is an overwhelming and extraordinary show of support."

● **See p5**

**LIFESAVERS:**  
WO Hughes is one of more than 300 Forces medics supporting NHS teams



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“Villanelle is very reluctant to do as she’s told”

Jodie Comer on her Killing Eve character  
**RnR p4-5**

“The team are now focusing on developing the science-based elements of motorsport, trying to up our game”

Off Cdt Dave Russell talking about the Service’s engineers working at Brands Hatch  
**Sport p27**



“We are very much open for business”

New RAFBF chief exec AVM Chris Elliot  
**p17**



## RAF News

### RAF News

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# Military battling Covid

RAF PERSONNEL are among 20,000 military on standby as part of the Covid Support Force, with more than 2000 uniformed men and women deployed to help battle the virus.

Its main effort has been on supporting the NHS with an Odiham-based Chinook helicopter recently deployed in support of Nightingale hospitals in Harrogate, Bristol and Sunderland.

The Aviation Task Force aircraft flew clinical experts to the sites to carry out assessments to ensure the new centres open on the desired dates.

Meanwhile, Air Force and Army personnel are manufacturing and distributing 3D-printed Personal Protective Equipment components. Army engineers have produced more than 39,000 face shields so far, working 24 hours a day for the past month.

Meanwhile, Odiham’s Chinook Support Centre has developed clips that attach to the elasticated straps of protective face masks to make them more comfortable when worn for long periods of time. And a giant Brize-based 99 Sqn C-17



**CHINOOK CREW: Vital role supporting coronavirus fight**

transporter has delivered essential equipment to the Falkland Islands to build an oxygen generation plant to increase supplies to King Edward Memorial Hospital. The delivery

is part of the UK government’s support to the Overseas Territories during the pandemic and means the hospital can treat more patients with breathing difficulties.

A team from RAF Wittering’s 5001 Sqn will shortly deploy to the South Atlantic to assist in the installation and maintenance of the oxygen generation plant.

## This Week In History



**1945**

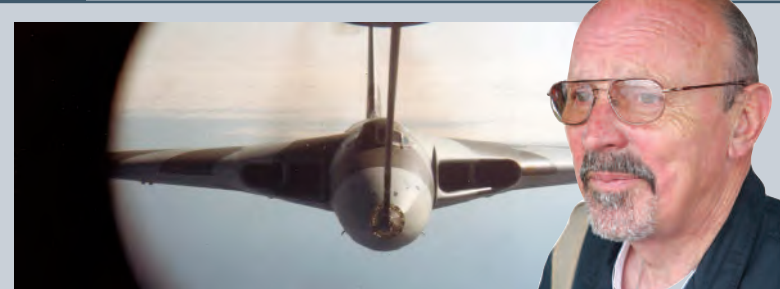
### VE Day

The unconditional surrender of Germany signals the end of World War II in Europe.

**1965**

### Phantom debuts

6 Sqn becomes the first to operate the new McDonnell Douglas Phantom at Coningsby. The aircraft carries out close air support, low-level strike and tactical reconnaissance roles until the 1990s.



**1982**

### Longest bomb raid ever

A Vulcan bomber captained by Flt Lt Martin Withers (pictured) drops 21 1000lb bombs on Stanley airfield in the Falklands War. The 7860-mile mission launched from the UK is the longest ever carried out by any Air Force so far.

Extracts from *The Royal Air Force Day By Day* by Air Cdre Graham Pitchfork (The History Press).





# OF SUPPORT TO OUR RAF COMMUNITY



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 **ROYAL  
AIR FORCE**



# Combat medics join NHS battle against Covid

**Tony Durrant**

**MILITARY-MINDED ROYAL Air Force nurses are passing on their frontline combat medical skills to NHS colleagues in the fight against Covid-19.**

Members of the Princess Mary's Royal Air Force Nursing Service (PMRAFNS) are helping civilian staff cope with the demands of critical care of virus victims

The team of seven are working at Derriford Hospital, Plymouth, working shoulder to shoulder with members of the Queen Alexandra's Royal Naval Nursing Service.

There are 350 RAF nurses working in hospitals throughout the UK.

"Our experience of nursing in austere conditions and our leadership training has seen us step up to support our civilian colleagues in new ways of working," said FS Holly Chambers.

"A more task-orientated approach to clinical care may be needed and the military nurse is well placed to lead in this environment.

"The military mentality is influencing our NHS colleagues in lots of positive ways



and it's clear that the only way to get through this is to work together."

The RAF personnel's experience of working in a Critical Care Air Support Team (CCAST) has proven invaluable when it comes to equipment care and teaching.

"Our ability to troubleshoot and check equipment is quickly rubbing off on our NHS partners," said FS Chambers.

The slower spread of the virus in the South West of England gave the team vital time to prepare, allowing intensive care

policies and procedures to be streamlined.

"At the moment we are not under the same pressure as RAF colleagues in Oxford and Birmingham," added FS Chambers.

Gp Capt Fionnuala Bradley, of the RAF Health Directorate, said: "I could not be more proud.

"It is leaders like FS Chambers who have refined their expert skills and applied their talent as leaders and educators, that make their contributions invaluable.

"Very few people will ever understand the pressures of caring for the most seriously ill, in conditions where the threat is most virulent and emotional challenges are intense.

Alongside doctors, medics and nurses from all three services, the PMRAFNS is supporting the amazing NHS when the nation needs them most.

"I am humbled by the commitment and courage of healthcare workers, in all settings, at his time of national emergency."

**BATTLE OF BRITAIN** : Right, Sgt Sam Tillyer, inset left, Flt Lt Emily Cheshire volunteer for duty. Above, RAF Medic checks injured soldier on board a CCAST flight from Iraq to the UK



## Digital airbase tests coronavirus tracker App

**Tony Durrant**

**THE ROYAL Air Force is at the forefront of testing an NHS smartphone app that could help prevent the spread of Covid-19.**

Personnel at RAF Leeming, North Yorkshire, are trialling the software, led by the station's innovative digital unit, RAF eXperimental who have been working closely with the NHSX team.

The app uses Bluetooth software to determine a user's proximity to other devices. If a person shows symptoms or tests positive for the virus, they can choose to share this information with the NHS via the app.

An alert will then be sent to other devices they have been near, whose users can then be tested or self-

isolate. More than 300 personnel and their families at RAF Leeming carry the app on their phones as 'beta testers'.

The NHS chose Leeming to host the trial because RAFX has a record of testing apps and is at the forefront of driving new processes across the forces.

The team has attempted to simulated people's experience of shopping.

To adhere to social-distancing rules, phones were placed on tables to simulate people clustering in a shopping area.

Others walked past looking in fake shop windows, triggering Bluetooth software calculating one phone's proximity to another.

Gp Capt Blythe Crawford, RAF Leeming station commander, said:

"The Royal Air Force is doing everything it can to support the NHS and with the help of RAFX and the personnel at RAF Leeming we have provided the perfect testing ground for projects such as this."

Mother-of-two Mrs Trudie Chesworth, whose husband works on the station, said: "It was great that the whole station, including dependents such as myself, were able to do something in support of the NHS and the national effort."

Gp Capt Crawford added: "All our participants were volunteers and spanned the Service, reservist, civil service, contractor and dependent communities here on the station.

"We are delighted that the results have helped the NHS in their drive to develop an application to assist in tracking any spread of the virus."







# COVID-19: WE ARE HERE TO HELP

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# Covid crisis fails to slow war on terror

## Typhoons target Daesh sleeper cells



**COALITION MISSION:** Technicians carry out final checks before Typhoon launches a combat sortie from Akrotiri  
PHOTOS: SGT NEIL BRYDEN



### Simon Mander

THE GLOBAL coronavirus pandemic has failed to halt Britain's contribution to the fight against Daesh.

Since 2014 RAF aircrew based in Cyprus have been flying missions over Iraq and Syria as part of a Coalition of nations combating Islamist militants, but now they find themselves fighting two types of terror cell.

"Covid-19 has affected everyone and operational personnel are no exception. But I've been humbled to see how quickly our teams, particularly the logisticians, were able to adapt working practices to keep the tempo going," said RAF Mobile News Team leader Flt Lt Louise Tagg (pictured right).

Despite the liberation of territory once held by Daesh, it is still not considered completely defeated and having been driven underground has sleeper cells in Iraq and Syria, which is why the Coalition's operations go on.

While that continues Flt Lt Tagg



**BUSINESS AS USUAL:** J4 team in front of an A400M Atlas transporter at Akrotiri  
PHOTO: SGT NEIL BRYDEN

and photographer Sgt Neil Bryden will continue to record the activities of the Air Force's Typhoon fighter jets supported by C-17 transporters and Voyager tankers.

Flt Lt Tagg added: "83 Expeditionary Air Group news team enjoy the best of both worlds.

"We're at an established station at Akrotiri but with the flexibility to deploy across the Middle East."

Typhoon joined the campaign in late 2015, when Parliament voted to extend the fight into Syria and, following the Tornado's retirement,

is the UK's main frontline jet.

"One of the greatest highlights of my tour so far has been the opportunity to see our Air Force at its most dynamic – to be airside with Typhoons and Voyager taking off together," added Flt Lt Tagg.

"Nothing demonstrates our people's outstanding abilities quite like an operational tour."

## Distancing rules give catering aces food for thought

### Simon Mander

**CORONAVIRUS CRISIS** restrictions have forced RAF personnel on operations to come up with new solutions to everyday situations.

With the two-metre social distancing rule the new norm, military teams are having to adapt and meal times are no exception.

For Flt Lt Maddy Wade and her 903 Expeditionary Air Wing team, feeding up to 400 military personnel at Akrotiri became a major mission.

With the closure of messes, she secured a hangar and set up shop.

Within days the new feeder was providing three hot meals a day.

RAF chef Cpl Lee McCullough said: "Since the start of Covid -19 it's been great to see everyone coming together to get the job done and make sure everyone gets fed. Morale is really good."

With outdoor sinks, several two-seater tables spaced adequately apart and a radio speaker donated by BFBS, hungry personnel have somewhere to sit and eat, allowing daily working routines to continue.

Flt Lt Wade said: "The team have lifted the morale of the entire station despite the unusual times we're experiencing."



# HOW THE RAF CHARITY FOR SPORT AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY IS FLEXING ITS SUPPORT TO SAFEGUARD SERVING PERSONNEL DURING LOCKDOWN

One of the few allowances the Government has made during the UK's lockdown to control the spread of coronavirus is for people to be able to go out and exercise once a day. Their guidance recognises how important it is not only to safeguard people's physical health during the restrictions but equally acknowledges how vital physical activity is in safeguarding our mental health. As the RAF's charity for sport and physical activity we are acutely aware of how important our support is to serving personnel at this time as we continue our mission to safeguard their health and wellbeing.

Further to our normal charitable funding programmes, we have been working hard on initiatives that can best support our beneficiaries as RAF Sport is put on hold and Station gyms are temporarily closed. Our recent LES MILLS On Demand partnership delivers more than 800 online workout classes to the RAF through a 60 day free trial and a heavily discounted subscription rate thereafter. With 1,500 already benefitting from the offer, we are working with another well-known health and fitness partner and will shortly be announcing another great opportunity to keep personnel motivated at this time.

The Sports Lottery helps fund our charity work and as always we are grateful to all those who have tickets in the game and continue to support us in this way. Whilst the Sports Lottery is our principal fundraising tool, we are also supported by individuals taking on sporting challenges to raise funds for us such as marathons and charity bike rides. Unfortunately, like so many charities across the UK, we have been impacted by the cancellation of mass participation fundraising events due to Covid-19. We have therefore partnered with The 2.6 Challenge, a national fundraising campaign for all the UK's charities which launched on Sunday 26 April. We currently have 36 registered fundraisers who have through their fun and wide-ranging 2.6 challenges raised more than £5,000 for us! If you would like to sponsor any of them or make a direct donation then please visit our Just Giving fundraising page:

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For more information about our charity please visit:  
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The RAF Sports Lottery operates as a society lottery within the Royal Air Force Central Fund and is licensed and regulated by the Gambling Commission ([www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk](http://www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk)). The Royal Air Force Central Fund is a company registered in England and Wales 8555984, Charity registered in England and Wales 1152560, Charity registered in Scotland SC044299.



## News

## News bulletin



**BREATHE EASY:** Oxygen kit lands at Mount Pleasant PHOTO SGT LEE MATTHEWS

## Islands air power

AN OXYGEN generation plant has been flown into the Falklands to increase supplies at the Island's main hospital.

A Brize based 99 Sqn crew flew into Mount Pleasant to deliver the life-saving equipment on board an C-17 Globemaster.

A Royal Air Force team from 5001 Sqn are due to deploy to the Falklands to install the new equipment.

The UK's South Atlantic territory went into lockdown and imposed strict social distancing rules after two British soldiers tested positive for the virus last month.

# Charity chiefs launch vets Covid cash lifeline

**Tracey Allen**

THE RAF'S biggest charity has launched a cash lifeline for vets hit by financial troubles during the corona lockdown.

The RAF Benevolent Fund is the UK's first military charity to introduce an online application service allowing users to appeal directly to the charity for emergency payments of up to £750.

Air Vice-Marshal Chris Elliot, the Fund's new chief executive, said: "Making sure people get access to financial assistance is the key, so we have made the application process as easy as possible."

The launch of the web-based process coincides with the charity's announcement of its Covid Response Fund to help people with immediate needs access support swiftly and easily.

AVM Elliott added: "For us it's very much business as usual."

"This is exactly what the fund is there for and has been for the last 100 years – being able to be

responsive and agile.

"We are here to support people in need. Since March we have already awarded £1.5 million in individual grants."

"We have also made £2500 available for each Royal Air Force station to provide an activity and wellbeing pack for Service children who will be missing our Airplay youth support sessions which have been temporarily paused."

Air Cdre Paul Hughesdon, the RAFBF's director of welfare and policy, said: "Rather than mark a step away from the traditional case-working process, the approach will allow the caseworking organisations we work with to focus their resources and skills on more complex cases."

"This system will also enable us to work efficiently and effectively as social distancing measures continue and will appeal to those who are more tech-savvy."

A RAF spokeswoman said: "We anticipate the move to the online system will significantly speed up

**BAIL OUT:**  
RAFBF chief executive AVM Chris Elliot



the application process - from up to six weeks to no longer than two."

Users will be able to download the form, which can then be uploaded alongside any supporting documentation.

A spokeswoman for the RAF Benevolent Fund added: "In some cases, we may have to ask additional questions or refer the application to a case-working organisation, which will necessarily take a little longer."



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## News

### News bulletin



**FITNESS CHALLENGE:** RAF Regiment fundraiser Sqn Ldr Summerfield

## Regt man's charity bid

A RAF REGIMENT officer is using lockdown to train for the Three Peaks challenge in memory of his grandmother who died with dementia.

Honington-based Sqn Ldr Liam Summerfield is raising money for the Alzheimer's Society after seeing how she was affected by the illness.

He said: "My grandma fought a long battle with both vascular dementia and Alzheimer's.

"She was a strong woman but all this changed with her diagnosis in 2008 and the slow decline in her health started.

"Her memory and ability to recognise loved ones vanished, as did her physical health.

"My grandad tried to take care of her but after he died my grandma spent two years not being able to do anything before she died in 2015, aged 84.

"Nothing scares me more than this illness. Not being able to interact with loved ones would break anyone's heart."

Sqn Ldr Summerfield has set himself two challenges to raise cash to combat Alzheimer's when the UK lockdown ends.

He hopes to scale the three peaks of Ben Nevis, Scafell Pike and Snowdon in 18 hours carrying 49lb in his Bergen – the weight of his grandma when she died.

He will also attempt the 16-mile Nettle Warrior fancy dress obstacle course dressed as comic book superhero Batman's madcap female enemy Harley Quinn.



**DRESS TO IMPRESS:** Liam hopes to complete event dressed as Harley Quinn

## Defence launches £1 million ideas fund to fight virus

THE MOD has launched a £1 million fund to fast-track innovations to aid the Armed Forces in the fight against coronavirus.

The call is open to any idea or novel approach that could boost the Ministry of Defence's capabilities and work as part of the national effort against coronavirus or similar future threats.

Director of Defence Innovation Clare Cameron said: "Innovators and industry have stepped up to the plate with a remarkable response to

the coronavirus outbreak.

"This investment will unleash the power of innovation to rapidly help us in the national effort against coronavirus.

"Coronavirus is not just a health emergency, but also one that affects many other aspects of the way we live.

"That is why £1m has been allocated to launch this rapid response call today seeking the very best ideas from innovators."

Head of Defence and Security Accelerator Anita Friend said: "This is a broad call for innovation,

meaning we are open to any idea from anybody to solve or tackle any challenge.

"If you think you have a great idea that can help us in these unprecedented times, then we want to hear from you."

The move follows a call for rapid sanitising technology to speed up the time it takes to clean ambulances in conjunction with the Welsh Government.

The scheme received more than 200 proposals in the week after it was launched.



**FUNDING:** Forces Covid fight

# Yian speaks up for Coco

## Tracey Allen

AN RAF mum is hoping her young autistic son will start speaking with the help of a specially-trained assistance dog.

Sgt Gemma Luxton's son Yian, who will be four next month, has been diagnosed with autism – which has stopped him speaking.

She said the animal-loving youngster can't wait to make friends with 18-month-old chocolate Labrador Coco, who is being trained to help the family cope with the situation.

She said: "Yian finds it difficult to make connections with other people but seems to have an affinity with animals.

"We are hoping that Coco will be a best friend for him. If he gets over come or compulsive Coco can take charge of the situation through nuzzling and licking Yian to calm and comfort him.

"When we are able to have Coco at home once the coronavirus pandemic is over, we're hoping that Yian will start talking to him."

The RAF medic, based at Defence Medical Services, Whittington Barracks, Lichfield, lives with her wife Rachel and Yian's twin sister Avarae.

They were able to have Coco thanks to military charity SSAFA and an RAF Benevolent Fund grant to fund the scheme run by Autism Dogs Community Interest Company in Cheshire.

Sgt Luxton added: "We feel very lucky. It went from nothing happening to nearly having Coco so quickly. We can't thank the charities enough for everything they have done for us.

"Yian is the youngest child

to be accepted on the scheme. We were just in time before the application programme was closed due to the coronavirus. We were lucky to be accepted."

According to the charity assistance dogs can help reduce the frequency and severity of meltdowns and anxiety; improve language development, social and motor skills; reduce anxiety and provide reassurance, security and friendship.

A spokesperson said: "They have even been shown to extend the vocabulary of some children, whilst also providing them with the support that they need to learn, both at home and in a formal educational setting."

Coco has now completed about 70 per cent of his 150-plus hours of obedience and advanced skills-based training.

Sgt Luxton added: "We can't be part of Coco's training at the moment but we have video clips of him training and we are sent pictures of him.

"Avarae is very excited about Coco too and is telling everyone he is coming to live with us to help her brother."



**HELPING HOUND:** 18-month-old Labrador Coco is being trained to provide reassurance to children in distress. Above, Yian with his twin sister Avarae





# Into the eye of the storm

As the true Wuhan death toll is revised, a RAF man who flew into Ground Zero reveals details of the mission to evacuate UK families

**EPICENTRE:** Wuhan in lockdown, inset left, Chinese medics battle to save patient, below, Sqn Ldr Foster who was part of JFHQ military team who flew in to bring back UK families



AS THE Chinese government revises the Wuhan coronavirus death toll by 50 percent, Sqn Ldr Phillip Foster revealed how he helped more than 120 UK nationals out of the city which sparked the global pandemic.

The 47-year-old airman was part of a Joint Forces team who launched the repatriation mission within hours of a Foreign and Commonwealth Office call to evacuate British workers and their families as the virus took hold.

He said: "We were out of the door and on a flight to Beijing in less than five hours of the call from the Foreign Office to support the repatriation of our people."

"After a briefing at the British Consulate and a 13-hour drive under strict Chinese diplomatic protocols we arrived in Wuhan."

"The city was like a scene from a zombie apocalypse movie. It was eerie. The streets were dead and the motorways were totally empty."

The city, regarded as the Ground Zero of the coronavirus pandemic, is the capital of Hubei Province and home to more than 11 million people.

To halt the spread of the Wuhan outbreak, which has killed more than 3800 people, a city-wide network of bio-checkpoints was established, along with a ban on all unauthorised movements.

More than 30,000 medical workers were brought in and two makeshift hospitals were built to treat the surging number of victims.

Sqn Ldr Foster added: "When you see a city of that size with that many people in a state of total



**DESERTED:** Downtown Wuhan

lockdown it gets to you. You realise the severity of what is happening."

Operating under strict Chinese government restrictions the UK team worked with British Embassy and Consulate staff to co-ordinate the evacuation.

All passengers hoping to leave

had to pass virus screening and be authorised by Beijing authorities before being allowed to travel to the airport in Wuhan where their flight back to Brize Norton was waiting.

Sqn Ldr Foster added: "We were able to communicate with the passengers we were trying to get out

**"It was like a zombie apocalypse movie - the streets were empty and there was an eerie atmosphere"**

via email and mobile phone calls.

"It was non-stop for 48 hours. We were operating as a four-strong Joint Forces Headquarters team with two embassy staff and one fluent Chinese speaking member of staff from the British Consulate

"There was a team from JFHQ working closely with the FCO crisis evacuation team in Beijing, offering reachback support and assistance with unlocking complex consular issues.

"They did an amazing job getting everyone on board and coping with last minute hitches like lost passports. Some things never change."

"The passengers who got to the airport were happy and relieved to see us. They were clearly desperate to get back home to their families."

"There was one four-year-old child whose mother was not authorised to leave. We worked closely with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office to get that child on board and eventually reunited with members of the family back in the UK."

"There was no chance of anyone with coronavirus symptoms getting on board. They would have never got through the checkpoints."

The military mission to Wuhan was one of two coordinated by JFHQ high readiness team which



**PLANNING:** Sqn Ldr Foster with British Embassy team in Wuhan

evacuated more than 350 British and EU nationals.

Working closely with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the government's Department for International Development, the specially trained UK unit is on permanent standby to be deployed anywhere in the world.

After a 10-hour flight the JFHQ team, 72 UK citizens and 41 EU passengers landed at RAF Brize Norton in Oxfordshire.

They were taken to the newly opened assisted isolation facility in the Wirral where they were quarantined for 14 days and regularly tested for Covid-19.

Sqn Ldr Foster and the Forces team were transferred to a military base in Wiltshire where they were also isolated and tested before being given the all clear.

Sqn Ldr Foster said: "This is what I joined up for. I wanted to travel and be part of the fabric of our country. It was a privilege to be involved. It is what we do and we were all keen to get out there and help our people."





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## News bulletin



**AT RISK:** RAF civil servant Qasim Wazier

## Qasim answers corona call-up

**ASTHMA SUFFERER** Qasim Wazier is helping people suffering mental health problems during the coronavirus lockdown.

Despite being told to isolate at home because of his 'high-risk' health status, the RAF High Wycombe-based civil servant is still doing his bit to help others.

Within a week of signing up to the NHS volunteer scheme to provide telephone support the 20-year-old was fielding calls.

"I offer assistance to anybody who is suffering mentally in these times," he said.

"I've spoken to people from 18 up to 40, which shows it doesn't matter how old or young, you have someone to speak to if you're afraid and confused."

High Wycombe spokesperson Cpl Leanne Wheeler said: "We are very proud that, despite being in the high-risk category, Qasim is still contributing to the national coronavirus effort."



**ANNOUNCEMENT:** Defence Minister Tobias Ellwood

## Forces review is put on hold

A REVIEW into the UK's Armed Forces has been put on hold as Britain battles the deadly coronavirus.

Defence chiefs who made the announcement have confirmed that the military response to the crisis will be included when the Defence Select Committee resumes later this year.

Defence Committee chairman Tobias Ellwood said: "There would be no point in conducting an in-depth review of the nation's defence and security challenges to an artificial deadline, especially at a time when Whitehall is rightly focusing on tackling coronavirus."



**CIVVY CHRIS** Laney snapped this incredible photo of an RAF Chinook conducting a coronavirus training mission.

He captured the veteran combat helicopter performing a banking manoeuvre while he was exercising in Oxfordshire, close to RAF Benson. He said: "It's a gem of a photograph that I really wanted to share with people who love all things helicopter."

# Air Force medics join blue-light life savers

## Staff Reporter

**FIRST RESPONDERS** from High Wycombe have been mobilised to support hard-pressed ambulance crews hit by the coronavirus pandemic.

A total of 12 volunteers, who normally devote one evening a week to help, will now be working full-time alongside paramedics, patient transport service drivers and manning the emergency operations centre.

All RAF personnel have received an accelerated training package for their duties with the South Central Ambulance Service, which will vary depending on qualifications and experience.

They include dual-crewing frontline ambulances, manning transport vehicles, supplying medical care to patients to and from hospital and dispatching ambulances.

A spokesman said: "The team have taken all the duties in their stride and as we see the Covid-19 situation develop they will be on the frontline alongside their colleagues from the NHS."



**FRONTLINE DUTY:** RAF High Wycombe first responders report for duty with South Central Ambulance Service



# “Churchill argued that one Pole was worth three Frenchmen – Dowding disagreed, the Pole was worth ten”



PHOTOS: AIR HISTORICAL BRANCH (RAF)

**FLT LT PRITHVIPAL SINGH:** Commander of 'A' Flight, No. 1 Sqn IAF, at Magwe, Burma, during ops in support of Allied forces retreating from Burma in March 1942

**RECON:** The pilot of a Short Sunderland of 201 Sqn scans the sea through binoculars while on patrol over the Atlantic from its base at Castle Archdale, County Fermanagh

**INSET:** Short Sunderland III, W4030/H, of 10 Sqn RAAF, targets a German type VIIC submarine U-243 in the Bay of Biscay, July 8, 1944



**PILOTS OF 303 (POLISH) SQN:** Leconfield, Yorkshire, October 24, 1940. (l-r) Pilot Officer Witold Lukociwski, Pilot Officer Miroslaw Feric, Flight Lieutenant JA Kent (Flight Commander), Flying Officer Bogdan Grzeszczak, Pilot Officer Jan Zumbach, Pilot Officer Jerzy Radomski and Flying Officer Zdzislaw Henneberg



**BREWSTER BUFFALOS OF 21 SQN RAAF:** Lined up at Sembawang, Singapore, for an inspection by AVM CWH Pulford, AOC RAF Far East



**PILOTS OF 'B' FLIGHT, 126 SQN:** Snatching a bite between sorties in their flight tent at Luqa, Malta. On the left is Plt Off FD Thomas of Harrow and on the right Flt Sgt CF Bush of Gravesend

**Ask the author:**  
**Brigadier Ben Kite**



**Why did a soldier want to write a book about the RAF?**

"I get asked that a lot. I had previously written on the British and Canadian campaign in Normandy (*Stout Hearts*), so for my second book I thought it would be wise to write about something other than an Army-dominated ground campaign and broaden myself as a military historian.

"I had enjoyed writing about the Second Tactical Air Force in Normandy in *Stout Hearts* and therefore a book on the British and Commonwealth Air Forces in the Second World War appealed."

**How does your account differ from others?**

"Though there are some great books on the RAF in the Second World War, no one had written a book that focused so heavily on the tactics and technology, supporting these explanations with the personal accounts of those employing them in actual operations.

"Interestingly, this approach seems to be particularly well received by Service personnel, perhaps because we can relate it to our own experiences."

**What's the main thing you learned from your research?**

"I really enjoyed writing the book, but I was persistently reminded how our historical narrative and understanding of the Second World War is still imperfect.

"The way air power is consistently underplayed by historians is a case in point, with most writers cursorily glossing over the air contribution to campaigns or failing to cover it at all.

"Moreover, those who do write on the air aspects of the war tend to focus on a few well-known events, such as the Battle of Britain, or the Bomber Offensive (do we really need yet another book on the Dambusters for instance?) resulting in the other lesser-known air operations getting largely ignored."

**How does your forthcoming second volume *Undaunted* relate to *Through Adversity*?**

"The advantage of a two-volume work is that you can treat the subject much more comprehensively and, though Fighter and Bomber Commands are given plenty of attention, there is also space to write about the lesser-known operations.

"Writing about the anti-shipping campaigns in the North Sea, air-land operations in the desert, air support to Tito's partisans and the RAAF campaign in the SW Pacific have been some of the most rewarding aspects of the book.

"This is probably because it was all so new and a delight to bring largely unknown events and personal accounts to a wider audience. Some of them will make your hair stand on end."



**YOU MIGHT think Ben Kite's *Through Adversity* is just another account of the RAF's World War II campaign. All the usual suspects are there – the pilots awaiting orders to scramble during the Battle of Britain and the Lancaster crews of Bomber Command on raids from which 55,573 personnel would never return.**

But look more closely and this is a masterly piece of scholarship accessible to both the lay reader and aviation enthusiast and, remarkably,

it's written by a soldier. In this first of Brigadier Kite's two-volume series, he sets himself three aims: to capture the main themes of the war in the air, explain the tactics used by the RAF, and focus on the people who fought.

And it's this rigorous approach, coupled with some breathtakingly dramatic contemporary imagery dug out by the Air Historical Branch, that throws up some fascinating insights.

Even the familiar stories such as the fabled heroism of Polish aircrew elicits the memorable anecdote that: "Winston Churchill

argued that one Pole was easily worth three Frenchmen. Lord Gort ...and Dowding disagreed and suggested the ratio was more like 10 Frenchmen per Pole."

To his credit, Kite doesn't pull any punches when examining 'official' versions of campaigns – particularly the effectiveness of offensive operations over Europe, for which Fighter Command claimed 731 German aircraft shot down for a loss of 411 in one six-month period when, in fact, the Luftwaffe lost 154 including 51 not attributed to British action.

And the tactical lessons he draws hit home. "Good aircraft that can meet their opposite numbers on at least an equal footing is an absolute necessity. It is hard not to pity those who met the Luftwaffe's modern Me109Fs in Hurricanes at Malta, or the Japanese Zeros in Buffalos over Singapore.

"The RAF must take some criticism... when from 1941 onwards so many Spitfires, our best aircraft, were languishing at Fighter Command engaged on Circus and Rhubarbs of dubious... benefit."

**B**ut there's praise too where the Air Force got it right, such as the development of well-camouflaged 'kutchas' dispersal strips around main airfields in Burma to prevent Japanese night-time raiders destroying the desperately few aircraft available.

In his introduction Kite is slightly apologetic about not having the space to give the traditionally dominant air campaigns such as Bomber Command's German offensive 'disproportionate emphasis' but there's no need.

In fact, the 59 pages he devotes to the campaign more than brings it to life by judicious use of first-hand accounts that even address issues such as whether, as Pathfinder Leader Donald Bennett believed, its pilots were "mere chauffeurs for the navigators and bomb aimers!"

And the space he saves allows him to explore some of the lesser-known but equally important RAF campaigns, such as the Battle of the Atlantic when Coastal Command hunted down and destroyed German

U-boats threatening Britain's vital shipping lanes.

Well-written and superbly illustrated, this book will appeal to both general readers and RAF personnel past, present and potential – and not just because the foreword is written by the current Chief of the Air Staff!

■ ***Through Adversity: The British and Commonwealth War in the Air 1939-45, Volume 1* by Ben Kite is published by Helion in hardback, priced £29.95.**



**Armed  
Forces  
Entry  
only  
£10.00\***



## **The Hurricane 80K Challenge is now open!**

Enter now and challenge yourself to complete 80K in 80 Days. Complete it by walking, running, or marching on the spot and we will post you an exclusive medal.

Standard entry £20.00\*   Standard entry and a souvenir t-shirt £32.00\*

Help us honour those who defended our skies during the Battle of Britain by fundraising for the RAF Museum and pledging to raise £80 for the 80th anniversary. You will be helping us to commemorate 'The Few' and keep their memory alive.

**For more information, and to register, visit [rafmuseum.org/whatson](https://www.rafmuseum.org/whatson)**



\*booking fee applies



## Regulars

Announcements ● P6-7

Crossword & Su Doku ● P8

# R'n'R

# Red hot –

Killing Eve is back ● p4-5

Win police  
helo manual  
● p5

Win!





# Recognise the passion - who's made an impact?

**W**e're still seeking nominations for the world's top engineering and technology talent, to honour them with medals and trophies for their services to the industry at a glamorous and inspiring ceremony in London.

Last year's IET Armed Forces Technician of the Year Award was won by Warrant Officer Class 2 (WO2) Kay Howells, an Army Ammunition Technician with over 15 years' experience in all aspects of ammunition, surveillance, repair and disposal.

She is one of the British Army's most highly skilled bomb disposal experts and has conducted bomb disposal operations in hostile environments; most notably in Afghanistan and during a recent Weapons Intelligence role in Iraq. She leads the Advanced Counter IED team at the Defence's Explosives, Munitions and Search School. A keen promoter of Science Technology Engineering and Maths in the workplace, Kay actively seeks to inspire future generations into STEM trades within the military.

On winning, she said: "Promoting the ammunition technician trade means a great deal to me and I am thankful to the IET for inviting us to these awards. It is great to receive recognition for my work."

## So, who do you think should win this year?

Nominations are open until 15 May, so hop online to view the various award criteria and nominate someone exceptional at: [theiet.org/achievement](http://theiet.org/achievement)

The IET Achievement Awards exist to recognise individuals from all over the world who have made exceptional contributions to the advancement of engineering, technology and science in any sector, and therefore made demonstrable impact to society.

This can be through research and development in their respective technical field or through their leadership of an enterprise.

The calibre of nominees for these awards are always exceptionally high, with each year's nominees surpassing the last, making it a very difficult award for the judging panel to award!

IET President Dr Peter Bonfield OBE said: "All the IET Armed Forces Technician Award finalists demonstrated skills and knowledge through their work that went far beyond their roles. They have taken on challenging tasks and through innovation and determination to succeed have brought real benefits to those they

work for and with."

2018's IET Armed Forces Technician of the Year was awarded to Sergeant (Sgt) Dan Hardwick, a Mechanical Aircraft Technician in the RAF and proactive STEM ambassador. He was chosen for his contributions to the development of aircraft tools and for his dedication to promoting STEM throughout the Norfolk region.

He said: "It felt great to be nominated for the awards and to be recognised in my own workplace, [and] then to be shortlisted was amazing, I did not expect it at all. Looking at previous winners citations I didn't think I

would make the mark at all. Then when I won the award I didn't really have words for how I felt. To be recognised for my efforts in engineering and STEM by an organisation like the IET is incredible. It really made me feel proud.

"Winning the award has helped me to raise my profile as a STEM ambassador, [and] it has also gained me higher respect in my wider organisation. Seeing what a great organisation the IET is has spurred me on to enhance my professional registration and gain Incorporated Engineer status. I have had time to reflect on my career achievements and this will undoubtedly help me find a rewarding engineering career when my time in the RAF has come to an end."

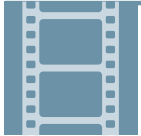
The IET Awards programme provides recognition and support in awards, prizes, scholarships and bursaries to celebrate excellence and research in the sector and encourage the next generation of engineers and technicians. All IET Awards seek to inspire and reward engineering excellence,

including apprentices at the start of their careers through to

reputable, established professional engineers and technicians.







## Film review Astronaut

Streaming on major UK video-on-demand including iTunes, Amazon, Sky, Virgin, Google and Rakuten (Trailer: youtube.com/watch?v=unRORRzgHE8)

# Grandpa's on another planet

**E**LDERLY WIDOWER Angus Stewart (Richard Dreyfuss, *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*) dreams of being an astronaut, and now he may actually be afforded the opportunity when a lottery is opened to the public for the first ever commercial spaceflight.

About to be carted off to a care home, though he clearly still has his wits about him, Angus is resigned to his position.

Grief-stricken, he spends his nights outside with his telescope, drinking, looking to find where he belongs. That is until his grandson urges him to enter a competition that could see him join a team on a two-week trip through space.

They would need to lie about his age and heart condition, but other than that highly dangerous risk, he has the sense of wonder they're looking for.

Marcus Brown (Colm Feore) is the entrepreneur behind it all,



HEAD  
IN THE  
CLOUDS:  
Space  
obsessed  
Angus  
(Richard  
Dreyfuss)

a Richard Branson-cum-Willy Wonka character, who has a passion for space travel that resonates with Stewart. But, what at first seems to be an unlikely beating-of-the-odds for our stargazing Grandpa Joe, becomes a different story altogether as he spots an issue with the runway and he's cast out of the competition.

An ex-civil engineer, this is his area of expertise and so it becomes his mission to bring it to everyone's attention, without appearing bitter from rejection. This becomes another one of those highly improbable situations like

*Armageddon* in which a regular salt-of-the-earth guy notices a problem that teams of well-trained experts overlook. Evidently, they're going to need a bigger road. A tougher road. You get the idea.

Dreyfuss adds confidence to proceedings, with a believable sense of passion that could just bag him another close encounter in *Astronaut*. Unfortunately, the wistful pace and lack of substance leave this performance floating out on its own.

Rating 2/5

Review by Sam Cooney



## Competition Quantum Leap

Fabulous Films Ltd/Fremantle Media Enterprises

Win!

## Take a Leap of faith with us

**G**ET READY to journey back in time with Dr Sam Beckett (Scott Bakula) and his holographic guide Al (Dean Stockwell) in the five-times Emmy award-winning series *Quantum Leap*.

Now you can enjoy all 97 episodes of this ground-breaking sci-fi adventure series, which has been fully restored and sourced from high-definition masters.

Consisting of 27 discs, the Complete Collection contains all the original music (which was missing in the previous DVD release) and is out on May 4.

Physicist Sam Beckett finds himself trapped, leaping through spacetime with his holographic guide Al during a time-travel experiment.

Beckett takes the place of a different person in a different time period each week. Once there, he and Al have to correct historical mistakes before moving on. Bakula (*Star Trek: Enterprise*) received four Emmy Award nominations and a Golden

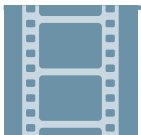
Globe Award for his role as a time traveller, helping people out of sticky situations by taking over their bodies.

Throughout the series, Sam Beckett often encountered implied younger versions of various celebrities and other famous figures including Buddy Holly, Woody Allen, Michael Jackson, Stephen King, Sylvester Stallone and Bill Clinton.

We have a copy of the *Quantum Leap Complete Collection* on DVD (rrp £99.99) for one lucky winner to win. To enter, all you have to do is answer this question:

**Who starred as Dr Sam Beckett in Quantum Leap?**

Email your answer, marked Quantum Leap competition, to: [competitions@rafnews.co.uk](mailto:competitions@rafnews.co.uk) to arrive by May 15. Please note that due to the coronavirus pandemic we are currently unable to accept competition entries by post.



## Film review The Kindness of Strangers

Streaming now, inc. iTunes (Trailer: youtube.com/watch?v=QM7nl0JGpr8)

# This offering kinda works!

...but its optimism is pushing it

**A**Gainst the frantic backdrop of New York City comes a story of implausible connection, as one woman tries eagerly to escape the clutches of an abusive relationship with her two boys in tow, seeking help wherever she can find it.

Zoe Kazan plays Clara, the mother quickly fleeing Upstate New York to Manhattan with such fearful haste, that it gives you some idea of the threat she's left behind.

With no money or place to stay, the runaway family sleep in their car – until, of course, it is towed. Shuffling from place to place, desperate and paranoid, she must steal clothes to wear and canapés to keep her kids fed.

The film begins by introducing several characters and gradually overlapping their stories, but make no mistake, there is no Richard Curtis cheeriness, but an improbably hopeful story about compassion and community.

There is the angel-made-flesh

Alice (Andrea Riseborough), who works as a nurse to pay the bills, but also volunteers at a soup kitchen for the homeless and runs a group for people seeking forgiveness. And there is ex-convict Marc (Tahar Rahim) who runs a Russian restaurant with the faux-Russian Tim (the accent is good for business apparently), played by Bill Nighy, with superb scene-stealing nonchalance.

What could have easily been more melodramatic is given extra weight by Kazan's committed performance at the centre. There are a few details that have certain characters seeming to belong in their environment and dramatic moments that aren't exploitative.

With a title that serves as a mission statement, *The Kindness of Strangers* is so unrealistic that it is almost fantastical in its optimism. But like many of its characters, its heart is in the right place.

Rating: 3/5

Review by Sam Cooney



SCENE-STEALER: Bill Nighy (right) as Tim. Inset, Zoe Kazan and Tahar Rahim (Clara and Marc)



## Film

### Misbehaviour

Digital platforms



**SURPRISE WINNER:** The first black Miss World, Miss Grenada (played by Gugu Mbatha-Raw)

## Miss World stunt made women's libbers famous

**MISBEHAVIOUR**, THE hit film about the controversial 1970 Miss World competition, has been made available to watch at home three months ahead of schedule.

Cinemas in the UK closed only four days after the release of the film, that stars Keira Knightley (*Official Secrets*, *The Imitation Game*), Gugu Mbatha-Raw (*Belle*, *Motherless Brooklyn*), Jessie Buckley (*Chernobyl*, *Judy*), Greg Kinnear (*Little Miss Sunshine*), Lesley Manville (*Mum*, *Ordinary Love*), Keeley Hawes (*The Durrells*), Rhys Ifans (*Notting Hill*, *Mr Nice*) and Phyllis Logan (*Downton Abbey*).

Based on a true story, *Misbehaviour* is directed by Bafta-winner Philippa Lowthorpe (*Three Girls*).

In 1970 the Miss World competition was held in London, hosted by US comedy legend Bob Hope (Kinnear). At the time, *Miss World* was the most-watched TV



**BIG NAMES:** Knightley as activist Sally Alexander and, below, Lesley Manville and Greg Kinnear as Dolores and Bob Hope

show on the planet with more than 100 million viewers.

Claiming that beauty competitions demeaned women, the newly-formed Women's Liberation Movement achieved overnight fame by invading the stage and disrupting the live broadcast of the event.

When the show resumed, the result caused uproar – the winner wasn't the Swedish favourite, but Miss Grenada, Jennifer Hosten (Mbatha-Raw), the first black woman to be crowned Miss World.

In a matter of hours, a global audience had witnessed the patriarchy driven from the stage and the Western ideal of beauty turned on its head.

**Misbehaviour** is available on all platforms including Amazon Prime, Sky Store and iTunes.



## The Big Event

### Killing Eve

# Killing time? You could do it with *Killing Eve*...

The world's most stylish sociopath's back.. and she's soon up to her old tricks again

**T**HE WAIT is over, *Killing Eve* has returned to BBC One and BBC iPlayer for a third series.

Villanelle (Jodie Comer) and Eve (Sandra Oh) are back with more explosive action and breathtaking cliffhangers in the latest instalment of the multi-award-winning drama.

The cat and mouse story continues, as the two women are once again set on a collision course. Fiona Shaw as Carolyn, and Kim Bodnia as Konstantin return, along with a host of new additions to the cast including Dame Harriet Walter (*Succession*, *Belgravia*), Gemma Whelan (*Game of Thrones*, *Upstart Crow*) and Steve Pemberton (*Inside No. 9*).

Whilst Villanelle believes Eve is dead, Eve is hoping to hide in plain sight, until a death sets them on a collision course once more.

Based on the *Codename Villanelle* novellas by Luke Jennings, *Killing Eve* is BBC iPlayer's biggest non-continuous drama of all time, with nearly 100m requests to watch series one and two so far.

Oh explained how she gets into the mindset to play Eve.

She said: "Every season there is a certain amount of chaos in our job, in trying to make a television show and make it good. It's a very mysterious thing, but when challenging chaos is present, somehow I've been able to use it creatively."

"Eve's own life is consumed by chaos – she's trying to find her way through the mystery of The Twelve and deal with the tremendous chaos and loss she has undergone. You don't have to step very far to make something creative from that."

The series took the cast to some exciting locations. Oh revealed: "We shot in this beautiful Romanian village called Viscri. It's a Unesco Heritage site Prince Charles helped set up and they actually have a residence there. I would walk to set, down the street and go through Prince Charles's house, because our production office was there."

"The next place that Eve gets to spend much of her time is in the beautiful village of New Malden [in south west London]. I honestly had no idea that the largest Korean population in Europe is in New Malden. That's a bit of a giveaway, but it was very exciting for me to be closer to Korean food," said the Canadian actor, whose parent are from South Korea.

She added: "Jodie and I don't actually spend that much time filming together so it makes the scenes between Eve and Villanelle quite powerful. We trust each other very much and we both have our deep understanding of the characters. It's wonderful when you're surprised, when everyone thought the scene was about this and then something different happens between the actors."

"Fans can expect a lot of change in Villanelle in season three. It's quite remarkable where she goes. And for Eve, so much loss. You'll see what happens when someone is pushed to such an extreme."

Harriet Walter's character, Dasha, trained Villanelle when she was younger, but the relationship was left on rocky terms.

Comer explained: "Dasha is a blast from the past that Villanelle is not ready for, or expecting. There was a time in Villanelle's life when she had so much admiration and respect for this woman but something happened between them, and Dasha's actions ruined that."

"They're at loggerheads for a lot of the series, but Villanelle always finds herself under the thumb of someone else and this time it's Dasha. It's a constant back and forth between the two of them."

"Villanelle is very reluctant to play ball and do as she's told, because if there's anything she wants most in this series, it's her own freedom and control and not to have to play by other people's rules." She added: "Harriet's incredible. She and Fiona Shaw have such ease within themselves and in their approach to their work. They're insanely talented but don't take themselves seriously at all. To be on set with them is so much fun."

"I spent a lot of time with Harriet this season and there were a lot of giggles and naughtiness. It was great to have

her. I found myself being freer within takes and then finding things."

Villanelle's costumes have always been a fan favourite, but Dasha has some great ones.

Comer agreed: "Dasha's got some amazing costumes. They're loud. A lot of leopard print. Different types of leopard print as well. She goes all out."

**W**hat are Comer's favourite costumes from the show? She said: "My favourite in season one was the suit I wore in Berlin when I killed Bill. It looked badass and I felt really comfortable in it. I had Dr. Martens on and was weaving around everywhere in the club trying to catch him."

"Favourite from series two is the pyjamas. I hated them at the time because they were unforgiving and they'd made them super small. When I saw them on camera I realised how brilliant they were."

"From series three it's hard to choose because I've got quite a lot. But there is an epic outfit on a golf course that is very green and looks like something from Sesame Street."

*Obsessed With... Killing Eve* is the TV companion podcast for anyone who wants to dig deeper into series three. Zing Tsjeng and Naomi Shimada return as hosts, taking a forensic look at the series with celebrity guests. Available weekly on BBC Sounds.

Series three of *Killing Eve* streams weekly on BBC iPlayer and continues on BBC One on Sundays at 9pm. Series one and two are available to watch now exclusively via BBC iPlayer.

CHIC: Jodie Comer as Villanelle



MENTOR: Dasha (Walter)



## Competitions

### Books

Police Helicopter Operations Manual (haynes.com)

Win!

## The flying squad ops manual

**S**INCE ITS beginnings in 1921 when the police first used an airship flying over the Epsom Derby to manage traffic, police aviation in the UK has evolved to become a key element of law.

Nearly 100 years on, Haynes is marking the achievements of the police air support units by publishing the *Police Helicopter Operations Manual* (haynes.com).

The book tells how the National Police Air Service has brought all 43 forces in England and Wales together to deliver a borderless police aviation capability countrywide, and takes an in-depth look at London's Metropolitan Police Service Air Support Unit (ASU).

It also features a series of case studies of typical air support missions to showcase police helicopters in action.

In the manual, author Inspector Richard Brandon, head of the Metropolitan Police Air Support Unit (ASU) between 2012 and 2015, describes the evolution of police aviation and reveals how



ARRESTING READ: New Haynes manual

the Met's ASU operates. He also examines how police helicopters work, including the Eurocopter EC135 and EC145, and looks in detail at the onboard surveillance equipment and systems.

He said: "It has been a real honour to put this manual together."

"Throughout my time

working in air support, I was always amazed by the response we received when we opened the door to the public and showed them inside our role.

"The manual is intended to provide unique insights into the vital role played by police aviation in modern law enforcement. The book certainly lifts the lid on police aviation."

The manual contains more than 200 photographs and illustrations, many in print for the first time.

We have copies (rrp £25) up for grabs. For your chance to win one, answer this question correctly:

**When was Richard Brandon head of the Metropolitan Police Air Support Unit?**

Email your answer, marked Haynes Police Helicopter Manual, to: competitions@rafnews.co.uk to arrive by May 15. Please note that due to the coronavirus pandemic we are unable currently to accept entries by post.



## Theatre

### Planet Earth II Live

UK & Ireland tour

# New dates for Planet Earth Live spectacle



POWERFUL: Gigantic screen on tour will show stunning images of the natural world

**R**ESCHEDULED DATES have been announced for the Planet Earth II Live in Concert arena tour of the UK and Ireland. The spring 2020 tour was postponed because of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Hosted by science and natural history TV presenter Liz Bonnin, the live concerts feature breathtaking footage shown in 4K ultra high-definition on a gigantic LED screen.

The City of Prague Philharmonic Orchestra, conducted by Matthew Freeman, will perform music by Oscar-winner Hans Zimmer, Jacob Shea and Jasha Klebe for Bleeding Fingers Music. Bonnin said: "I'm thrilled that Planet Earth II Live has been rescheduled to October and November."

"Our hope is that, once we begin to recover from this extraordinary situation, our tour can play a small part in

offering joy, healing and optimism. It will be an uplifting experience, celebrating the majesty of life and all the beauty and wonder that Mother Earth has to offer. I'm all the more excited to be able to share it with you."

All previously purchased tickets remain valid for the rescheduled dates.

All children under 14 are entitled to a £10 discount per ticket (excluding London evening and Dublin show).

Go to: [www.planetearth2live.uk](http://www.planetearth2live.uk) for details of the new dates.

HOST: TV's Liz Bonnin



HANS ZIMMER: Won Oscar





## Your Announcements

You can email photos for announcements on this page to: [tracey.allen@rafnews.co.uk](mailto:tracey.allen@rafnews.co.uk)

### Seeking

IS YOUR surname Mortimer, Dale, Keen or Jones? I'm hoping to make contact with any relatives of those who died with my uncle Edward McLaughlin on August 22, 1941, while serving with 37 Squadron in Egypt and are buried in the Suez war cemetery. Please contact Elaine Kelly at: [ehk1965@gmail.com](mailto:ehk1965@gmail.com).

I WOULD like to reconnect with Stuart Taylor. He was based at RAF Brize Norton 90s/00s working in the electrical/avionics ground crew section. Possibly 216 Sqn, 101 Sqn or 10 Sqn. He will be 49-50 now. Lived in Blackpool in the 80s (briefly at the Tower in '87). Lost touch due to house/job change. Please email Marie at: [whiskymac73@gmail.com](mailto:whiskymac73@gmail.com) if you can help.

### Reunions

SINGAPORE Armed Forces Reunion. Were you seconded from the RAF to the SAF at RAF Tengah between 1971-75? If so please contact Peter Priscott for a 50th anniversary reunion in August 2021. Email: [peterpriscott@aol.com](mailto:peterpriscott@aol.com) or call: 01842 878554.



THE Red Arrows Association is calling for new members. It organises various events, has a Facebook page and biannual newsletter and holds a popular annual reunion. Membership is £5 a year and is conditional on having served on the Red Arrows (including the Yellowjacks) as either aircrew,

ground crew or civilian support staff at any time since its formation in 1964. Associate membership is also available to people closely connected to the team. Please email: [secretary@redarrowsassociation.co.uk](mailto:secretary@redarrowsassociation.co.uk) or you can visit the website: [redarrowsassociation.co.uk](http://redarrowsassociation.co.uk).

237 OCU. Due to the coronavirus outbreak, the eighth annual 237 OCU Groundcrew Reunion will now be held on Saturday, September 5, 2020 from noon at The Compleat Angler, 120 Prince of Wales Road, Norwich NR1 1NS. Ex-237 OCU members of all trades and any era welcome. Just turn up and join in. For more information, please search for 237 OCU on Facebook, email me at: [237OCU@gmail.com](mailto:237OCU@gmail.com) or contact Si Roberts at 1 Manor Gardens, Carnoustie, Angus DD7 6HY or call: 07546 400085.

158 Squadron Bomber Command. The 158 Association is very active and we want to contact any veteran or relative of a veteran. We are planning a Reunion and Memorial Service for autumn 2020. Please contact: KevB@silenicus.com.

RAF Bawdsey Reunion Association. Due to the coronavirus pandemic we have, regrettably, had to cancel the annual reunion lunch planned for Saturday, June 6. Those who have booked a place and paid their fee will have their money refunded. WE have provisionally planned the next reunion for Saturday, June 5, 2021 and look forward to seeing our friends again then. In the meantime we wish you all a safe and healthy time during this unprecedented period. If you have any queries please email: [doreen.bawdseyreunion@btinternet.com](mailto:doreen.bawdseyreunion@btinternet.com) or you can call: 0751 3301 723.

COASTAL Command Officers' Reunion, October 10, 2020. Please contact Ray Curtis, call: 01264 735349 or email: [hjn3@btinternet.com](mailto:hjn3@btinternet.com).

ASSOCIATION RAF Women Officers Annual Reunion. All RAF Women Officers are invited to attend the Annual Reunion Lunch at the RAF Club on Saturday, October 10. We meet for pre-lunch drinks from 11.30 followed by lunch. All will be made very welcome, especially new members of the Association. For further details about the lunch or the Association of RAF Women Officers, please contact Sue Arnold on: 07740 865685 or email: [suearnold474@gmail.com](mailto:suearnold474@gmail.com)

THE RAF Locking 119/219/404 Apprentice Entries 50th Anniversary Reunion will be held on October 23 and 24. An informal evening on October 23 will allow ex-apprentices to gather before the formal dinner on October 24. The formal event will take place in the ballroom of the Weston-super-Mare Winter Gardens, BS23 1AJ, for all RAF Locking 119/219/404 Entry Apprentices and wives/partners. For further details please contact Barry Cox at: [barrycox124@hotmail.com](mailto:barrycox124@hotmail.com).

### SSAFA concert

SSAFA, the UK's oldest national Tri-Service military charity, has announced that its VE Day 75 With The Daily Mail concert has been rescheduled for Sunday, September 20. Due to the Government's Coronavirus restrictions, the Royal Albert Hall and UK cinemas will be closed on Bank Holiday Friday, May 8 – the 75th anniversary of VE Day. A SSAFA spokesperson said: "Tickets already purchased for the Royal Albert Hall will be valid for the new date. The venue will contact all patrons

with details of how to request a refund if they cannot make the new date. Cinema tickets will be back on sale in due course via local cinemas. Ticket holders should contact their local cinema box office directly to confirm it is screening this event on the new date or to receive a refund. For news and updates, go to the official event site at: [www.veday75.co.uk](http://www.veday75.co.uk).

Sir Andrew Gregory, SSAFA's CEO, said: "The difficult circumstances forced on us all by Covid-19 highlight the manner in which people step forward to serve this nation at times of crisis. Today's frontline is manned by doctors, nurses and care workers supported by key workers and, as always, the men and women in our Armed Forces.

"In postponing the events planned for May 8, it will give us the opportunity to celebrate the service of men and women both in 1945 and in 2020. "SSAFA is proud to be able to continue to support the Armed Forces community during this emergency, particularly as it will help relieve some of the pressure on the NHS."

### Call of the Wild Fest

THE Call of the Wild festival, that offers 25 per cent discount to all Defence Card holders and was originally scheduled for May at Lincolnshire Showground, will now be held on September 18-20 due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. More than 50 bands from around the world are set to appear at the county's biggest rock festival, including Motörhead's Phil Campbell with his project Phil Campbell & the Bastard Sons.

A Festival spokesperson said: "Our ticketing partner Gigantic is emailing all purchasers with the following options: tickets can be transferred automatically to the new date, transferred to the 2021 event or full refunds can be arranged. It will also be possible to swap day tickets or claim a full refund.

Please respond to Gigantic's email or – if preferred – contact them at: [customerservices@gigantic.com](mailto:customerservices@gigantic.com).

Anyone who purchased Earlybird tickets directly from us at the festival last year should contact: [info@callofthewildfestival.co.uk](mailto:info@callofthewildfestival.co.uk) and we will sort things out, on the same terms as above."

## Share your memories of RAF College Cranwell



THIS YEAR is the centenary of the RAF College Cranwell (pictured above) and it is in the process of collecting memories from people who may have lived or worked there in any capacity.

If you would like to share your stories and memories please email: [crn-sce-generalenquiries@mod.gov.uk](mailto:crn-sce-generalenquiries@mod.gov.uk) or write to: Media and Communications Office, RAF College Cranwell, Sleaford, Lincolnshire NG34 8HB.



## Write a script for Fund

DO YOU fancy being a scriptwriter? The RAF Benevolent Fund has launched a competition inviting the public to write a script telling a fictional story based on the Battle of Britain.

A judging panel will decide on the winning script, which will then be dramatised, recorded and produced as an audio drama. It will be released as a bonus episode of the second series of the Fund's All Stations podcast on Battle of Britain Day, September 15.

The second series of All Stations will commemorate the 80th anniversary of the

Battle of Britain. The All Stations podcast host, actress Sue Holderness (above), said: "I am immensely proud of my RAF links with my father and his brothers flying throughout World War II."

The script competition aims to engage younger audiences, as previous research by the Fund revealed 40 per cent of 18- to 24-year-olds did not know what the Battle of Britain was.

Submissions should be 10-25 minutes long and the deadline for entries is May 31.

Go to: [rafbf.org/battle-of-britain/competition](http://rafbf.org/battle-of-britain/competition) for more details.

## Schools TV for Forces kids

BFBS TV will broadcast eight hours of BBC Bitesize educational programmes to help Forces families overseas with home schooling by giving them access to the new 'lockdown service' available from the national broadcaster in the UK.

Nicky Ness, BFBS director of broadcasting and entertainment, said: "The service is in direct response to demand from our audience overseas for support with getting access to quality education materials for their children while the schools remain shut."

The programmes are split into age groups 5-7, 7-9, 9-11, 11-12, 12-13 and 13-14. There will also be a block of programmes to support GCSE and A-level curriculums.

Visit: [bfbs.com/channels](http://bfbs.com/channels) for more information on the schedule.



## Your Announcements

You can email photos for announcements on this page to: [tracey.allen@rafnews.co.uk](mailto:tracey.allen@rafnews.co.uk)

# Yellow Sun shines

LAST AUTUMN Philip Wardell, a volunteer at Newark Air Museum (NAM), started work on the challenging task of constructing a replica tail cone for a Yellow Sun nuclear weapon casing, writes Howard Heeley.

The Yellow Sun was the first British operational high-yield strategic nuclear weapon. This particular casing has been on long-term loan at Newark from the RAF Museum Reserve Collection at RAF Stafford since April 2012 and has been displayed on a Yellow Sun weapon trolley that was already part of the NAM collection.

The first sign of work on the project was when a set of concentric wooden formers were cut in the museum's on-site workshop last October. Since then, the replica tail cone has grown steadily in size and detail.

A trial fitting of the replica tail cone to the weapon casing took place in mid-November, using the original fixing points on the casing to secure the tail cone in place. Once this fixing concept and



MISSION ACCOMPLISHED: The replica Yellow Sun tail cone. PHOTO: HOWARD HEELEY

sizing were proven, work proceeded over the winter on riveting the metal coverings and tail fins in place.

The final fixing and repainting session for the tail cone was just before the museum closed for the Covid-19 lockdown. It now awaits inspection by visitors when the museum is allowed to reopen.

Phil's original aim was to have the project completed

in time for the Cold War Call-Up event scheduled for mid-May.

Whilst this event was sadly cancelled, Phil completed the project ahead of schedule.

He may be undertaking a similar construction project next winter, to build a replica tail cone for the V-1 Flying Bomb (Doodlebug) remains displayed in Hangar 1 at the museum's site in north eastern Nottinghamshire.



TO THE RESCUE: A Lancaster being loaded with food by 115 Sqn personnel at RAF Wrating Common

## Operation Manna needs you

BY APRIL 1945 more than 20,000 people had died of starvation in the Netherlands following reprisal action by the Nazis and the coldest winter on record.

After an appeal from Queen Wilhelmina and Prince Bernhard, Bomber Command came to the rescue launching Operation Manna, joined later by the US Army Air Force, as Operation Chowhound. Nearly 12,000 tons of food were dropped to the stricken population which, it is estimated, saved

almost a million people from starvation.

The International Bomber Command Centre, based in Lincoln, needs your help to tell the story of the time, in readiness for the 75th anniversary this year. Were you a farmer who helped with supplies? Did you help with loading the aircraft? Do you remember the fleets of aircraft flying from Lincolnshire's stations between April 29 and May 8, 1945? Was your family saved by the Operation? Was

a member of your family a Food Dropper?

The IBCC has already recorded the memories of many of the people who flew these lifesaving missions, and some of those whose lives were saved. Now it needs your help to complete the story.

If you have a memory to share, please contact the IBCC at: [info@internationalbcc.co.uk](mailto:info@internationalbcc.co.uk) or write to: Op Manna, IBCC, 13 Cherry Holt Road, Bourne, Lincs, PE10 9LA.

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## Crossword

No. 272

Solve the crossword, then rearrange the nine letters in yellow squares to find an RAF word.

### Across

1. Sailor at end of journey on ship to Gulf (5)
4. Garment for the fuller figure? (7)
8. Register laser that is malfunctioning (7)
9. In the past New York was suffering (5)
10. Missing female, side becomes long and limp (4)
11. Little man endlessly fit (5,3)
13. Scottish families move north to west for nipper (4)
14. Shortly receive a negative from Paris (4)
16. Making reference to a dull gin cocktail (8)
17. I leave leader to cook (4)
20. First, three older women enter restaurant in skyscraper (5)
21. It's coldly moving (7)
22. Dish is an unusual piece (7)
23. Criticise a vehicle egghead uses (5)

### Down

1. Naval creators produce plane (4,9)
2. After 12 months bearing desire (5)
3. Some sleep, some dance (4)
4. Musical note about the first pilot's insignia (6)
5. Titans so disturbed by our places of work (8)
6. A steely superhero, presumably (4,3)
7. Oracle or fairy confused by high-fliers (5,3,5)
12. It scuttles around band's car (4,4)
13. Inexperienced doctor has left, reversing old hostility (4,3)
15. Cavalier time after sunset, by the sound of it (6)
18. Oddly, Hoagie upsets UK with his poetry (5)
19. Long story about heartless Samantha and Georgia (4)

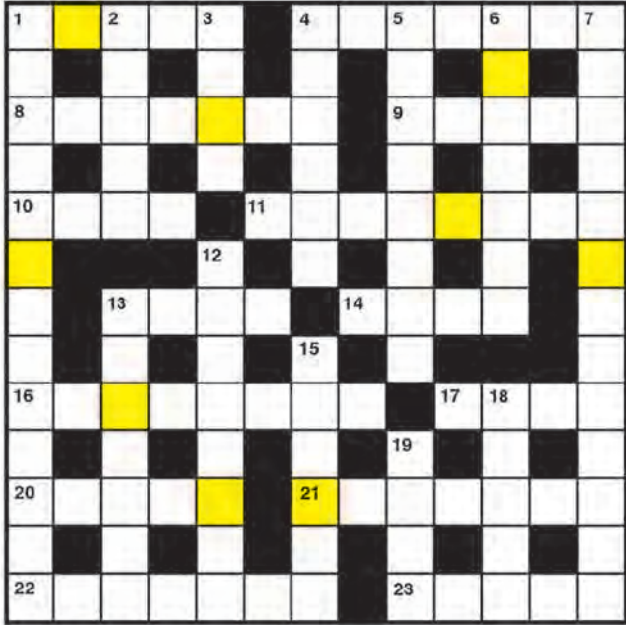
Name .....

Address .....

.....

RAF word ..... Crossword No. 272

Due to the coronavirus pandemic we are currently unable to accept Crossword and Su Doku entries by post, so for the time being, please complete them just for fun. We will resume sending prizes for winning entries as soon as possible.

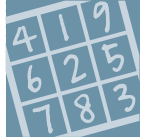


### Solution to Crossword No. 270:

**Across** – 7. Amora 8. Quince 10. Chicken 11. Italy 12. Rory 13. Repel 17. Views 18. Role 22. Watch 23. On Top Of 24. Nickel 25. Sherpa

**Down** – 1. Mascara 2. Topiary 3. Hawks 4. Jupiter 5. On Tap 6. Beryl 9. Underwood 14. Fighter 15. Compare 16. Red Flag 19. Swing 20. Stuck 21. Itchy

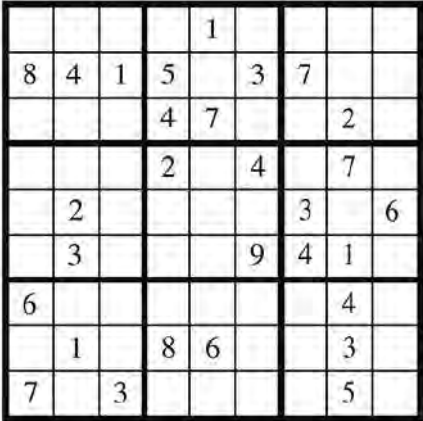
RAF word – Aircrew



## Su Doku

No. 282

Fill in all the squares in the grid so that each row, each column and each 3x3 square contains all the digits from 1 to 9.



Name .....

Address .....

..... Su Doku No. 282

### Solution to Su Doku No: 281

9	4	5	8	6	3	7	2	1
2	7	8	1	9	4	3	6	5
3	6	1	7	5	2	8	4	9
5	8	7	3	2	9	4	1	6
6	3	2	4	7	1	9	5	8
1	9	4	6	8	5	2	3	7
4	5	9	2	1	8	6	7	3
8	2	6	5	3	7	1	9	4
7	1	3	9	4	6	5	8	2



## Books

Hitler, Downfall 1939-45

Volker Ullrich, published by The Bodley Head (£30 hardback)

# The story of Adolf Hitler retold with real aplomb

**V**OLKER ULLRICH'S second instalment of his biography of Adolf Hitler is, despite the well-worn path, an incredible work.

At a time when three tomes on the Führer's life have been released, Ullrich's stands out with his incisive writing style that brings the reader to the chilling conclusion that one man can build and destroy his own destiny – and that of millions of others – by pure will.

As with Eric Vuillard's stunning novella *The Order of the Day*, *Downfall* shows all aspects of the puppet master de jour at work.

From the first chapter the author places the reader into a position similar to a German radio listener, as Hitler explains away his great works to bring Germany back off its knees following defeat and suffering as a result of the Treaty of Versailles.

Through crafted quotes we see the then subtle manipulation, writ large now, beginning to move towards the second stage of Hitler's masterplan. We see him moving between supporters, attending anything from art exhibitions to Wagner festivals, spinning plates, influencing everything.

*Downfall* makes for addictive reading as you see deals done, palms greased and promises made, before being burned up and, when only the husks are left, Hitler moves on. Ullrich shows how his battle plans run to a similar tune. Having spent ages structuring the invasion of Poland and Operation Barbarossa, Hitler's faultline that England and France would not enter the war, even if Germany invaded Poland in 1939, sees him running to stand still. That is, until the whole house of cards collapses around him in Berlin six years later.

The author has a brilliant ability to shock more when all around is shocking. With plans to eradicate the Jewish race from Europe reaching the desktops of the higher echelons of the NSDAP, Ullrich builds the awful tension superbly, never losing the impact of the nonchalant way the lives and fates of millions are described.

Stealthily over a 10-page section in chapter seven, Ullrich drops in quotes relating to using Europe's Jewish population as bargaining chips, before the coup de grace. Hitler is quoted as moving from simply talking about the eradication of six million lives, which he had planned after the defeat of Russia, to acting on this desire.

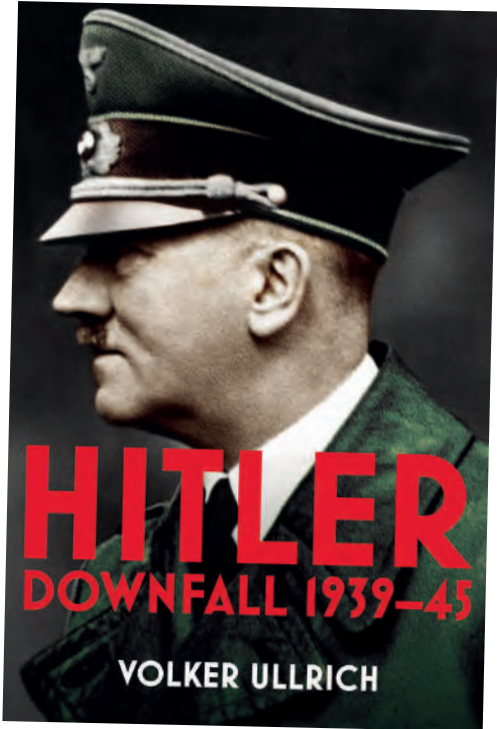
As his troops struggle in the winter crisis in the Eastern campaign, America enters the war and the Reich's finances are seemingly unable to cope with

the remainder of the conflict, the country's leader chooses to carry out an unthinkable act – to exterminate the Jewish race.

The shortness of Hitler's initial victories in Europe are slowly countered by the longevity of defeat and the author captures it all with aplomb. From the bunker madness to the Propaganda Minister's request to produce 'Total War', the die is cast, and *Downfall* traces the timeline dutifully.

Ullrich also goes to great pains to highlight the dictator's return to the minutiae of his original days. Lacking control, we see him taking his vengeance out on everyone around him as the end draws in.

The final reflective chapter brings in some looking for



forgiveness at having followed the flawed dictator, others aghast at his very existence, but the author sums up Hitler's life in admirable style: "If his life and career teaches us anything, it is how thin the mantle separating civilisation and barbarism actually is; and what human beings are capable of when the rule of law and ethical norms are suspended."

Rating 5/5

Review by Daniel Abrahams



By Tracey Allen

Feature

AVM CHRIS ELLIOT: New RAFBF boss

# 'We are very much open for business'

**A**IR VICE-MARSHAL Chris Elliot has become the first female chief executive of the RAF Benevolent Fund in the charity's 100-year history.

She retired last month as Chief of Staff Personnel and Air Secretary after a 35-year RAF career. She succeeds AVM David Murray, who stepped down after four years in the post.

Her ground-breaking appointment is another first for the pioneering air woman, who was one of the UK's most senior female officers.

She said: "The Benevolent Fund has been a part of my career as long as the RAF has – a constant friend should I ever need it.

"I am looking forward to building on the work already in place to not only mark the Fund's centenary but, more importantly, to reach out and help even more members of the RAF Family in need."

AVM Elliot has stepped into the leading military charity's top job at a challenging time when members, many of them elderly veterans, are having to self-isolate because of the Covid-19 crisis, and others find themselves urgently needing financial help.

She has already overseen the launch of a new online application process for those seeking financial assistance, seen the Fund award £1.5 million in individual grants and given £2500 to each RAF station for an activity and well-being pack to help youngsters missing the Fund's Airplay youth support sessions – now paused temporarily.

She also announced that the Fund's Telephone Friendship Group – that connects veterans and wider RAF family members over the phone once a week – has expanded.

AVM Elliot said: "The group is really important and we have expanded the service to allow for more veterans to join us.

"We are also expanding our weekly 'keeping in touch' calls for more veterans and taking referrals from the public who may know an isolated veteran. These calls will help us identify further needs.

"The veterans are the most vulnerable in our society, we need to make sure that we reach those people and they get our help. Given

## RAF Benevolent Fund's first woman chief exec in its 100-year history hits the ground running



**SUPPORT:** AVM Elliot opening the RAF Association's Kidz club at RAF Odiham

that people are currently isolating, it's just so important that we keep doing all our core business, such as bereavement counselling.

"And we are making regular 'check-in' calls for our Respite at Home users to make sure they are okay and to identify any further needs."

She added that, as the Fund's respite centre Princess Marina House in West Sussex has had to close for the timebeing, guests due

to attend in the coming months will also receive a 'check-in' call.

**T**he Fund is also continuing to provide help for serving personnel and their families.

AVM Elliot added: "We have agreed to double the amount of space on our existing Headspace mindfulness app. This will allow us to support more serving personnel and also open use of the app to their partners and anyone using our

listening and counselling service.

"It's really important for people to realise we are still very much open for business and we are here to help."

The CEO admitted that charity fundraising was inevitably going to be hit hard due to the coronavirus pandemic.

"There will be an income change for us and we will find it tough. We cannot hold the fundraising events that we wanted to. But we have always made prudent use of our reserves," she said.

"There are fantastic members of the RAF family still fundraising for us. We have to be very responsible and stress that people should not be putting themselves at risk while fundraising during this crisis."

**A**lthough not from a military family, AVM Elliot wanted to join the RAF from the age of eight. She said: "I wanted to fly planes or jump out of them."

Radical changes in personnel policy and recruitment have transformed the organisation she joined as a rookie in the 1980s.

But her rise through the ranks to become the first woman to hold the two-star post as the head of RAF personnel still came as a shock.

She said: "When I joined in 1985 it was so different, especially from a woman's perspective.

"It was still the Women's Royal Air Force, our terms and conditions were different, we were paid less

than men.

"You had to leave if you became pregnant – no way could you have a family and stay in the Service then. But I still felt 100 per cent part of the RAF.

"I would never have dreamt then that I would ever reach the rank of AVM because women's careers were restricted. We could not do operational roles.

"I joined as an Air Traffic Controller because it was the closest I could get to operational. Women couldn't be pilots.

"It really is completely different now but it has always been a meritocracy, a great organisation that always developed and supported me. I have had an amazing career."

The former RAF Halton Station Commander is married to an Army veteran and has two teenage children.

She said: "I was given very good career advice about looking at something from someone else's perspective – you have to celebrate and respect other people's differences.

"Lead well and treat your people well, and take every opportunity that's there."

She is confident that the Air Force will have a female Chief of the Air Staff in the not-too-distant future.

She said: "Absolutely, why not? There are some fantastic women out there."







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Flt Lt Ken Sumner DFM

## Obituary

**F**LIGHT LIEUTENANT Ken Sumner, who has died of coronavirus aged 96, was a bomb aimer who was awarded an immediate DFM for his actions after his Lancaster was badly damaged by anti-aircraft fire.

He enlisted in the RAF in 1941 when he was just 18 years old and trained as a bomb aimer. After a brief spell with No. 83 Squadron, in November 1943 he joined No. 44 Squadron based at Waddington, near Lincoln. This coincided with the beginning of the main phase of the Battle of Berlin when Bomber Command suffered its heaviest losses.

“His bravery came as no surprise to his crew, to whom his courage and devotion to duty had been an inspiration”

Sumner's first four operations on No. 44 were all to Berlin, over a nine-day period. By the middle of January he had paid two more visits to the 'Big City'. He also attacked Frankfurt, Stuttgart and Munich.

On the night of April 26-27, 1944, Bomber Command launched a raid against Schweinfurt. It was Sumner's twenty-seventh bombing operation. Some 250 miles from the target in the vicinity of Strasbourg the aircraft was hit by flak. This

# Wounded by flak, bomb aimer Ken refused to leave his position in Lancaster's nose



**HERO:** Young bomb aimer Ken Sumner

caused considerable damage to the bomber including several hits on the bomb bay and Sumner's compartment in the nose of the Lancaster. He informed his captain that he had been hit but insisted in staying in position.

Sumner continued to drop 'window' (metal strips to jam enemy radars) until the target area, when he successfully directed his pilot on a good bombing run. He dropped the bombs in spite of damage to the bomb release wiring and then operated the aiming point camera.

On the return journey he remained at his post to drop more window and to assist the navigator



**MEDALS:** Proud to have served

by getting visual fixes of the bomber's position until they cleared the enemy coast. Only then would he allow his wounds to be dressed.

The Lancaster had to make an emergency landing at RAF Wittering with damaged hydraulics, no brakes and limited flap. Sumner was immediately taken to hospital.

The citation for his DFM concluded: "His conduct in the incident came as no surprise to his crew and squadron colleagues to whom his devotion to duty, efficiency and high personal courage have been an inspiration." His pilot, Flying Officer Taylor, was awarded the DFC.

After recovering from his injuries, Sumner was rested from operations and commissioned. He spent six months on the staff of the bomber base at East Kirby and in March 1945 joined 617 Squadron, famous as the Dam Busters.

The squadron was equipped with the 12,000lb Tallboy bomb and some crews dropped the even larger, 22,000lb Grand Slam earthquake. Sumner dropped Tallboy on the shipping area at Ijmuiden on April 7, the U-boat pens at Hamburg two days later and on the 16<sup>th</sup>, the target was the German battle-cruise *Lutzow* at Swinemunde. On April 19 he dropped a Grand Slam on Helgoland and his final sortie of the war was against Hitler's retreat at Berchtesgaden.

Sumner was released from the RAF in 1946, when he moved to work on the family farm in North Yorkshire.

## Feature

# Virus may 'kill off' last Britannia

**Tracey Allen**

**THE FUTURE** of the last survivor of the RAF's Bristol Britannia fleet is in jeopardy – due to the current coronavirus pandemic.

XM496 'Regulus' is the last full ex-Royal Air Force Britannia left in the world and a cash injection is urgently needed to keep the unique aircraft as a static display.

Since 1997 it has been housed at



**GLORY DAYS:** Bristol Britannia XM496 'Regulus' in flight

Aircraft Engineering Limited to transport equipment and personnel. It was sold



**UNCERTAIN FUTURE:** XM496 is now grounded and on static display at Cotswold Airport

Cotswold Airport, formerly RAF Kemble, and looked after by the Britannia XM496 Preservation Society.

The Society's Brian Weatherley, a former Wg Cdr who flew XM496 during its military service, said: "The arrival of Covid-19 has heightened our problems. The airfield is closed and so the overwhelmingly predominant source of income, voluntary public donations, will be denied us in the coming months and will make it very difficult indeed to continue the preservation."

Known as the 'Whispering Giant' because of its quiet exterior noise and smooth flying, the Britannia joined the RAF in service in 1960 at Lyneham with 99 and 511 Squadrons, moving to Brize Norton in 1970. It was eventually

withdrawn in 1975 and flown to R A F Kemble for storage. It was used as a long-range military transport aircraft, carrying freight and passengers, and also for casualty evacuations.

XM496 was involved in many important operations including providing logistical support for the 1966 Zambian oil lift, getting personnel out of Aden in 1967 during the dangerous final days of withdrawal, the 1971 Bangladesh/Pakistan and 1974 Cyprus refugee evacuations, and even the transportation of treasures from Tutankhamun's tomb for the famous British Museum exhibition in 1972.

After leaving RAF Service XM496 was sold in 1976 to Monarch

to Aerocaribbean in 1984, who operated from Cuba, and bought in 1992 to be used for cargo and passenger runs in Africa. By 1997 it was the last flying Britannia left – all the rest had been used for spare parts.

Brian said: "Money is needed to save XM496 immediately so we can preserve her for the future – otherwise she is destined for the scrapheap within 10 years."

"If we cannot raise adequate funds to preserve 496, she might finish up a wreck which is scant reward for 23 years of volunteer restoration and preservation and not an image to sustain the high regard in which the general public holds the RAF, particularly, tomorrow's recruits."

■ **Go to:** [XM496.com](http://XM496.com) for more details.



## Obituary

## Jerzy Głowczewski, Polish Cross of Valour

SPITFIRE HERO:  
Jerzy Głowczewski



# One of the last great Polish Spitfire pilots

**J**ERZY GŁÓWCZEWSKI, who has died aged 97, is one of the last Polish fighter pilots to fly for the RAF during World War II.

Following the German invasion of Poland on September 3, 1939, Głowczewski and his stepfather joined many other Poles and left Warsaw and headed east to Lviv.

The Soviet invasion two weeks later forced them to head south to Romania, where he continued his education. A year later he was forced to flee again, eventually reaching Haifa in Palestine. In July 1941 in Tel Aviv he graduated from the last class held at the Polish High School.

He joined the Carpathian Rifle Brigade and headed for Egypt. During his final training, the Polish Air Force was recruiting new pilots and Głowczewski volunteered. He arrived in Britain in September 1942 to commence his training.

He completed his training as a pilot in February 1944 and initially served at No. 4 Air Gunnery School at Morpeth, where he towed target drogues for fighter pilots practising air-

to-air gunnery. At the end of June he began training on Spitfires and in September he joined No. 308 (City of Krakow) Squadron, which had recently arrived at a forward-landing ground in Normandy.

The squadron's aircraft were fitted with bombs carried under the wings and began flying armed reconnaissance sorties attacking the retreating German ground forces. It moved frequently as the Allied armies advanced eastwards and in October it arrived at Ghent in Belgium, where it remained until the New Year. It then turned its attention to the V-2 launch sites, which it attacked with bombs.

**G**łowczewski and his colleagues were airborne on New Year's Day, when the Luftwaffe mounted its major attack against Allied airfields. The squadron shot down 12 enemy aircraft and Głowczewski claimed a Focke-Wulf 190.

He was in constant action throughout this period and by the end of the war he had flown 100 combat operations. He was

decorated with the Polish Cross of Valour three times and the Air Medal. After the war he trained as a flying instructor and in early 1946 returned to the Continent and rejoined No. 308 at Ahlhorn, in Germany, where the squadron disbanded later in the year when Głowczewski was discharged.

**“While fighting on two fronts during World War II, I had been shot at innumerable times; while in combat, I have without a doubt caused the death of others”**

He returned to Poland and settled in his family home in ruined Warsaw. After graduating from the Faculty of Architecture of the Warsaw University of Technology in 1952, he joined the team rebuilding the city.

Initially he worked on the reconstruction of historic buildings before dealing with the construction of the Dziesięciolecia Stadium (Tenth Anniversary Stadium), the largest in Warsaw at the time.

After working in the Middle East he settled in Manhattan, New York. In an introduction to his book *Accidental Soldier*, which has been published in the United States in an English translation, Głowczewski wrote: “I have lived on the edge of a precipice, yet have somehow managed to miss the worst fate. I have been steps away from death, a refugee fleeing deportation, starvation and death camps. While fighting on two fronts during World War II, I'd been shot at innumerable times; while in combat, I have without a doubt caused the death of others. After the war's end, living under a Soviet-imposed communist regime, I was spared torture and prison. And I did not choose emigration, but circumstances forced me and my wife and daughter to accept it.”

Głowczewski made his last visit to Poland in 2017.



Flt Lt Bob Barckley DFC

Obituary



**F**LIGHT LIEUTENANT Bob Barckley, who has died aged 99, was shot down over France but managed to evade capture and escape to Spain. On his return, he rejoined his squadron and destroyed 12 V-1 flying bombs, making him one of the leading 'aces' against the terror weapon.

In the summer of 1938 he joined a territorial battalion of the Royal Fusiliers and served as a despatch rider with the British Expeditionary Force. He was evacuated from Dunkirk on June 2, 1940.

In December 1940 he volunteered to transfer to the RAF and train as a pilot. After gaining his 'wings' he joined No. 3 Squadron, operating as both night and day-fighters with their all-black Hurricane IIs. Their main task was dawn and dusk patrols over the North Sea convoys.

During Operation Jubilee in August 1942, the ill-fated combined operation against Dieppe, the squadron's task was to strafe the German gun positions overlooking the beach. The following day he attacked German fast patrol boats (E-boats) harassing Allied shipping. Later he again attacked the guns and his fourth and final sortie was to cover the withdrawal. He later described the Dieppe raid as "a shambles".

**T**he squadron was withdrawn from the frontline to re-equip with the Typhoon. On the morning of June 2, 1943, Barckley and a colleague took off from West Malling in Kent on an intruder mission, each loaded with two 500lb bombs. Near the French/Belgian border he attacked a stationary train with his cannons, when the locomotive blew up. He then headed towards Dunkirk to find a 'worthwhile target' for his bombs.

Approaching Bergues he attacked a long goods train and encountered intense anti-aircraft fire from a flak wagon on the train. He dropped his bombs but as he pulled away, his aircraft was hit, part of the starboard wing was shot away and the control column ceased to function. He bounced off some trees, missed some cottages and slammed into the ground at high speed, being rendered unconscious. After recovering, he cleared the aircraft and escaped as German soldiers appeared.

He walked for 20 miles towards St Omer and in a nearby village sought help at a church. A doctor attended to his wounds, he was



# Barckley shot down 11 V-1 flying bombs

## And flipped another off course with the tip of his wing when he ran out of ammo

given food and clothing before being taken to a farm. After proving his identity to the local Resistance chief, he was taken to a safe house in Paris. Unknown to him, he was now in the hands of the Belgian-run 'Comet' escape line.

After a few weeks in hiding, a young woman took him by train to a town near Biarritz before he cycled to a remote farmhouse near the Spanish border. He joined a party of other evaders and at nightfall the Basque guide Florentino led them across the Pyrenees to San Sebastian, in Spain, where he was collected by car and taken to the British Embassy in Madrid. He was moved to Gibraltar and on August 16 he was flown to RAF Northolt in a Dakota. After debriefing in London he returned to his squadron, now at Manston. There were celebrations to mark

the squadron's only pilot to be shot down and make it back to England. Four days later he resumed operational flying.

**H**e flew sweeps over France until March 1944, when the squadron became the first to re-equip with the faster Tempest fighter-bomber.

On May 8 Barckley was flying an intruder mission over France when he spotted a bright light in the sky. He followed it and shot it down. He wrote in his log book: "Chased airborne light from Evreux to Le Havre. Fired three bursts, went done in sea. Jet ship?" He later added: "Rather precognitive of me!"

Shortly after D-Day the Germans began their V-1 offensive against England. With their powerful Tempests No 3 Squadron

and two others provided the main fighter defence. Over the next three months, No 3 shot down 305 of them, the most by any squadron.

Barckley opened his account on June 18 and a day later shot down two more over Kent. By the middle of July he had destroyed nine. On July 14 he had used up all his ammunition shooting one down when he saw a second. He was able to accelerate and catch the V-1 when he placed his wing tip under the stubby wing of the flying bomb and immediately flipped his control column and banked. The weapon tipped over and crashed into a wood near Sevenoaks.

By the end of August Barckley had destroyed 12 V-1s and shared another. He was twice mentioned in despatches and in November 1944 was awarded the DFC for 'his high degree of courage.'

In September he left for Normandy to join No 122 Wing, which moved eastwards as the Allied armies advanced. In January, flying from Volkel in the Netherlands, Barckley was wounded attacking a German airfield and returned to England to recover. When he was fit he was seconded to the Fleet Air Arm for test pilot and fighter instructor duties in Northern Ireland, before being released from the RAF.

He was a long-standing and devoted member of the Aircrew Association, the RAF Escaping Society and its successor the Escape Lines Memorial Society. He was a regular at annual conventions and never forgot his gallant helpers of the Comet Line. He attended their reunions in Brussels and in 2014 made his last visit to meet the survivors.



## Motoring

Toyota C-HR

# Angular SUV's huge fashion statement

**I**'M PRETTY sure that when car designers are children they don't think to themselves 'when I grow up I want to design a door handle'. No, what they actually think is something along the lines of 'one day I'll create a car that will make people turn and stare as it passes'. So Toyota's designers will be pretty happy at the moment because they've finally been allowed to let their imaginations run wild.

With that new found freedom they've managed to create something really quite amazing, a car that resembles the fictional mechanoid 'Kryten' from the cult TV series *Red Dwarf*. Believe it or not, that is actually a good thing.

It's based on a radical concept car that Toyota originally unveiled in 2014 and it is strikingly unusual from most angles. Like Marmite, or Brexit, it's something that you either love or hate.

The chiselled exterior lines make it instantly recognisable and inside the designers have had even more fun, creating a cabin that is probably the best effort from Toyota since the new Supra emerged.

### And it gets better...

This is a higher riding car for the crossover market but the chassis has been designed by someone who is obviously a motorsport fan because it handles well.

It sits slightly lower than most crossovers but retains that SUV look. In essence, it's based on the same platform as the Prius and shares its 1.8 litre engine, electric



**TIM MORRIS**  
Motoring  
Correspondent



motors and CVT gearbox – one of the world's most proven hybrid systems. Like its sibling then it's economical and at lower speeds will run silently on pure electric.

### Here's the catch

It doesn't have much oomph and by much I mean, well, any. The hybrid system adds a good bit of weight to an already chunky car so the noisy 1.8 120bhp engine does tend to rev away quite loudly as you attempt to get it up to speed. The result is that it feels far slower to accelerate than it actually is, which



**REAR: Poor visibility is compensated for with a reversing camera**

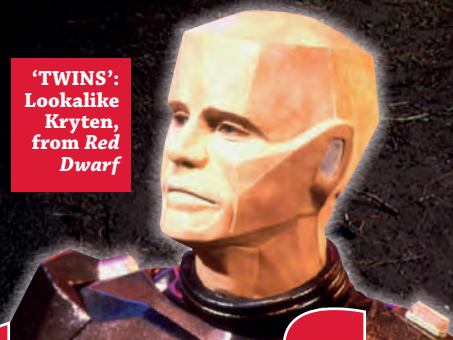


**HANDY: Sat-nav**



**'MARMITE': The distinct Toyota C-HR**

**'TWINS': Lookalike Kryten, from Red Dwarf**



# It's out of this world

is already less than spectacular.

There is no diesel option but there is a 1.2 turbo charged petrol available which is lighter and slightly quicker than the hybrid. We haven't driven it yet but we're told that it handles even better, so it may yet be the pick of the range.

### Inside

So much effort has gone into the interior design that you can't help noticing the details. The liberal use of chrome effect trim and the thick, neatly stitched leather dashboard are just two examples, while the uniquely-shaped climate control buttons add to the experience. There are a few cheap plastic surfaces to be found but on the whole it's a pleasant place to be.

There's plenty of room up front and the rear space hasn't been reduced to a great degree by the radical styling either. Even the boot is a healthy size (377 litres).

There's a comfortable driving position and the 7in touchscreen controls offer clear functionality. The resolution could be slightly higher but we'll forgive it that.

The windscreen pillars are slightly thick but front visibility is otherwise pretty good.

On the downside, the fashion

### Verdict

#### Pros

- Nimble handling
- Silent at low speeds
- Economical
- A real fashion statement

#### Cons

- So-so infotainment system
- Slightly expensive
- Poor performance
- Noisy acceleration

#### Overall

SOME will say the C-HR is just Toyota's attempt to have a presence in the crossover segment, but they're missing the point. The manufacturer was one of the pioneers of the original crossover segment with the RAV4 back in the mid 90s and the C-HR is a very well-thought-out evolution of the concept that caters well for today's market. It's comfortable, it's fun and it's generously equipped. Above all it's different and if you like it, you'll really, really like it.

statement looks have taken a bit of a toll at the rear where visibility is pretty poor. The small rear side

windows don't help much either and in the back seats you'll either feel cosy or claustrophobic.

Fortunately, all versions have a reversing camera to compensate. The image can be a bit grainy in the dark but it certainly helps. Parking sensors are an option on the entry-level Icon trim but come as standard on most other models. You can also add a system that will manoeuvre the car into a parking space for you as an option.

All models come with Toyota's Touch 2 system which uses an 8.0in touchscreen to control its Bluetooth telephone connectivity and DAB radio. Anything above Design trim also comes with a sat nav that gives live traffic updates.

Even the basic sound system gives great audio quality but there doesn't appear to be an Apple CarPlay or Android smartphone mirroring upgrade anywhere on the options list, which is a bit of an oversight.

### Performance

The C-HR Hybrid will return in the region of 50mpg on a combined cycle in the real world and deliver seriously low CO2 emissions (86g/km). 0-60mph is a hefty 11 seconds and feels even longer. From £29,800.





# 5 pages of **RAF Sport** starts here

● Engineers get revved up with track stars P27



## Wakefields a knockout

Evening provides fireworks  
P24-25

### FOOTBALL

# Season ends with all eyes on future

## New Icarus boss oversees hard-earned draw then plans for 2021

**THE ICARUS Officers' football clash in Aldershot not only marked the first game in charge for new boss Fg Off Sam Taylor, but also the last of the season.**

The 1-1 draw against the Army Reserves at Aldershot Stadium, was the last first team fixture of the 2020 season, due to the coronavirus pandemic. The clash also marked Taylor taking the hot seat after the departure of Sqn Ldr Scott Hyndman following five years in charge of the team.

Taylor, pictured right, said: "First of all I have to acknowledge the great job that Sqn Ldr Hyndman did in taking Icarus forward and

thank him for it. What a fantastic tenure as manager.

"It is an honour to take over as Icarus manager and I am excited for the next chapter."

The game started with a minute's silence to honour Army Reservist LCpl Brodie Gillon who died on operations in Iraq.

Following the silence, a fast-paced start allowed Icarus to create some early chances through Flt Lt Alex Wright and Fg Off Taylor, with the

latter narrowly blazing over the bar after good build up play by Flt Lt Tom Carrington. The Officers' solid shape and disciplined early start made them favourites to take an early lead, but the hosts had other ideas, scoring in dramatic fashion.

Having failed to clear the initial ball into the box, an acrobatic overhead kick was superbly finished from the secondary cross.

Icarus instantly rallied and a fast attack from

Carrington and Off Cdt Josh Rees caused problems in the Army back four.

Minutes after conceding they were level on 35 minutes, following a foul on Wright. Flt Lt Jordan Kirk-Ellis then played a perfect free kick to the left boot of Taylor who volleyed past the keeper.

Following the break, superb play by Fg Off James Grant out wide saw him beat the winger and full back, but his excellent cross went unfinished.

Flt Lt Tim Salinger was then called upon to produce a great save to deny the hosts with Flt Lt Adi Porter and Off Cdt Amil Saman also

thwarting further Army attacks. Excellent work in the middle of the park from Flt Lt Adam Fleming, Kirk-Ellis and Fg Off Adam Weaver, making his Icarus debut, saw the visitors constantly look dangerous. A long ball then produced a good chance to another debutant, Fg Off Luke Owen, who was denied by a last gasp tackle.

With time running out a wonderful corner from Wright was met by Saman, who headed narrowly over.

Any RAF Officer interested in playing for RAF Icarus, should email: [Sam.Taylor933@mod.gov.uk](mailto:Sam.Taylor933@mod.gov.uk).





Inside line

# Bang tidy is way to go

Wakefields sign off season in explosive style

**STAFF REPORTER**  
HQ Air Command

**THE SERVICE'S boxing season ended on a high with some incredible work put in to stage the 101<sup>st</sup> RAF Boxing Association's Lord Wakefield Championships at Cranwell College.**

Huge efforts went in to organising the evening against the ongoing challenge of Covid-19, with a field of 70 boxers attending the behind closed doors event.

As near a 'normal' Wakefield's Finals night as usual was staged, with officials, coaches and boxers producing a stellar evening in the ring.

The first bout of the evening was a female 57kgs contest between Cpl Diane Rutter (Gibraltar) and Cpl Rachel Hughes (Brize). Despite this being their joint Wakefields bow, both boxers settled quickly, Hughes enjoying the better of the early exchanges.

Throughout, it was her more experienced and technically aggressive style that made the difference. Hughes went on to secure a second win in two days and also won the Sassoon trophy.

SAC Sam Cook (Odiham) was

well-matched against the compact Lossiemouth fighter, SAC Josh Broderick. Coming off the back of a good performance on tour in Guernsey with the Elite team, SAC Broderick was keen to produce a slick display. After an all-action affair, Cook took the win and was awarded best boxer of the championship.

Brize's second boxer of the night, Class A welterweight Cpl James Kirton, was absolutely committed to making it a clean sweep for the Oxfordshire squad. Unfortunately for the talented young JNCO, Cpl Smitten (Digby) had different ideas and using his long-range armory in the form of his excellent jab

Bout four saw SAC Doyley and Cpl Fletcher, clash saw Fletcher apply waves of pressure, countered by Doyley's straight shots. A series of uppercuts and hooks into the body of Fletcher, resulted in his withdrawal by his safety conscious coaches, later in the bout.

The final Class A 81 Kgs bout took place on the Sunday evening and produced a truly tough bout for the local Digby boxer, Cpl Will Bardsley, against SAC Blu Addison, a hard hitter from Brize. Addison's power told out and quickly. After a series of telling blows inside the

first round, the referee intervened and awarded the title to Addison.

The next bout was an all-Digby affair, with SACs Rowe and Kavanagh battling for the bragging rights.

Kavanagh started well, producing the greater percentage of delivered blows through the first two rounds. Unfortunately, for Rowe, Kavanagh continued his pace of attack and once again the referee intervened to halt the bout in Kavanagh's favour.

The final Class A bout ended swiftly as well with Cpl Chapman's (Digby) power and speed outflanking SAC Duckworth on all fronts.

SAC Steel (Digby) and SAC James Foreman (Akrotiri) fought out an evenly matched clash. Steel worked the body, while Foreman used movement to unpick the well-covered opponent. An excellent bout went the way of the Cyprus-based boxer on a split decision.

An RAF Honington match concluded the evening's boxing with SAC Craig Baxter-Leggett being pushed hard to claim victory over SAC Porter.

Follow RAF Boxing on Twitter @RAFBoxing and Facebook - Royal Air Force Boxing Association.

**DUCK AND COVER:** Main and below, action from the evening which ended the boxing season for the RAF  
PHOTO: GORDY ELIAS RAF CRANWELL



## Service speed merchants get scientific to win



**FAST AND FOCUSED:** Main, RAF driver Off Cdt Dave Russell prepares for another track session at Brands Hatch, below, the BMWs in full flight PHOTO: SAC AMY LUPTON ACSU

Continued from page 27:

through numerous rigorous handling tests, while monitoring their lap times for improvements.

Members of the support team sat in on the test runs, in the passenger seat, to see first-hand how their hard work had paid off.

Team driver Off Cdt Dave Russell tested one of the cars out on the track after the realignment on the famous Brands circuit.

He said: "Last year, we introduced our novice scholarship team and our first 116i car followed by a challenging season developing it."

"Off that success came our second vehicle which is ready for the track with a fresh set of drivers for 2020."

"The team are now focusing on developing the science-based elements of motorsport, trying to up our game and progress from a

fairly new entry to a competitive team on the track Using all the experience gained from #STEM and engineering skills gained in our daily roles and by utilising the latest tech available, we're focusing on

optimising the handling a n d geometry aspects of the vehicles which is just as important as increasing power.

"It is exactly the same in a v i a t i o n design, if we just focused

on going as fast as we can and not on how we control that speed then all that work becomes redundant. It's challenging but rewarding when we get it right and see the results in the lap times."

Anyone interested in getting involved with Motor Sports, contact the RAF Motor Sports Association via station PED Flt, at: rafsportsfederation.co.uk or on Facebook at: facebook/RAFMSA.





## Sport

## MOUNTAIN BIKING

# Madeira run is a piece of cake for MTB riders

Two podium finishes complete week in riders' mecca



**Staff Reporter**  
HQ Air Command

**THIS YEAR'S** Gravity mountain bike team's overseas visit saw the Service's riders head for what is regarded as the mountain bike mecca – Madeira.

The team embarked on six-days of riding in ever-changing conditions: from torrential rain on day one through to dry and dusty tracks by the end of the week.

Expert ride guides' extensive knowledge of the tracks ensured a mix of the best and most famous trails showcased. The team experienced riding across mountains, open plains, pines

forests and even in jungles. Although they didn't ride a track till the last day, they only scratched the surface of the vast trail network.

The team of six riders was made up of Flt Lt McCarthy (enduro team), Sgt Redman (downhill team), Sgt Corsby (ex DH), Cpl mills (prospective team rider) and SAC(T) Bailey (ex development team). Sgt Jamie Corsby said: "As we rolled to a stop we all knew this was the best trail we had ridden in our lives. That feeling really summed up the week perfectly. This has been a proper bucket list mountain bike trip."

Along with training, the team competed against locals and other visitors, completing a timed race

on an Enduro track, with the RAF riders dominating the podium to take all top three spots.

Sgt Corsby was in first place, with Sgt Redman coming in third.

Corsby, who took top spot, said: "There were diversions in the race due to poor taping of the track and a few rider mistakes, but that's part and parcel of racing. We were left wondering who really was quickest, but will have to settle it at RAF Inter-Station series."

"All in all, the trip was a success with all riders more confident and quicker on the bikes, the range and variety of tracks was a big factor in rider progression. We all cannot wait to see what next year's trip might hold."



**TEAM WORKS:** Main, Sgt Redman gets airborne and focuses on the downhill track, above  
**PHOTOS:** ARMPUMP FILMS

## Presenter launches thanks hashtag



**TEAM MATES:** Above, L-R, TV star Nick Knowles, rugby ace Mike Tindall, BFBS' Cath Brazier and RAF rugby union legend Sgt Tug Wilson

BFBS SPORTS presenter Cath Brazier is leading the charge to help get Service personnel recognised for their efforts during the current coronavirus pandemic.

Brazier, who helps support the Rugby For Heroes charity, which raises money to help military personnel during their transition from Service into civilian life, has championed the hashtag #ThanktheForces to help raise awareness of the selfless work being undertaken alongside the NHS and other Services.

She said: "The charity does great work, but I thought we should try to obtain some praise for the Service heroes at this time as well."

"I am not looking to mirror

the amazing clap for the NHS and such like, we just wanted to get sports stars to produce a short video giving thanks to our Forces and the NHS."

So far former England rugby star Mike Tindall, a patron of the charity, DIY SOS star Nick Knowles, also a patron and ambassadors GB Skeleton star Amy Williams and actor Julian Lewis-Jones have produced videos.

Now Brazier is hoping members of the public will take up the mantle.

"It is really simple, just make a short video and post it on your social media, while adding the hashtag #ThanktheForces and @rugbyforheroes to show your appreciation."



## Sport

### Madeira MTB madness

● Sport P26



### Wakes end season on high

● Sport P24-25



Email: [sports@rafnews.co.uk](mailto:sports@rafnews.co.uk)  
Telephone: 07966 429755

## MOTOR SPORT

# CAR STARS GET EDGE

Scientist team up provides Brands speed



**RACING CURVE:** Main, FS Chris Slator tackles Paddock Hill Bend in the BMW at Brands Hatch, below right, L-R, Sqn Ldr Si Frowen, Off Cdt Dave Russell, SAC Alex Smith and Cpl Stu Jackson jack up a team BMW116 in the shadow of a 28 Sqn Chinook, below left, Cpl Jakcsn and AC Dayna Johnson assemble a hub stand. PHOTOS: SAC AMY LUPTON - ACSSU

### Daniel Abrahams HQ Air Command

**ENGINEERS AND boffins have combined perfectly to give the Service's motor racing team a potentially vital edge in the high-speed sport.**

The team joined forces as part of British Science Week, with B-G Racing Motorsport Equipment to explore the science behind motorsport.

Using the latest in geometry alignment equipment, the team's BMW 116i cars, including their newest track blazer built at the AutoSport International show, were adjusted to pinpoint accuracy.

Working with B-G Racing experts, members of the team, trainees

from RAF Halton and engineers from RAF Benson spent a day learning the ropes in setting up the equipment and how to use it correctly. The following day the team put their efforts to the test with a Javelin track and test day held at Brands Hatch Circuit in Kent. With unlimited laps around the Indy Circuit, this year's scholarship drivers got the opportunity to put the cars

**Continued page 25:**





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