

**The Forces' favourite paper**



**Win Classic action DVDs**

● See RnR p4



**Win!**

**Paloma Faith Locked-down but not out**

● Interview RnR p5



**ROYAL AIR FORCE**

Friday **October 30** 2020  
No. 1502 **70p**

# RAF News



● See pages 16/17

## Odiham nets charity double



**Alpine sports**  
Game over as Covid hits IS



● See p28

**Cycling**  
RAF team's Will to win



● See p27

# Airpower rangers

**F-35, Typhoon  
Voyager, F-15  
war games**



### Simon Mander

BRITISH AND American combat jets are fighting together in the biggest RAF exercise for 10 years – to prepare the UK's Carrier Strike Group for global operations next year.

At its peak more than 70 fighters, multi-engine aircraft and helicopters operating from airbases

across the country will join high-intensity tactical training over the North Sea and North East England.

Codenamed Crimson Warrior, the manoeuvres build on the most challenging aircrew training designed to produce war fighters of the future, military chiefs say.

● Continued on p5





**Royal Air Force  
Benevolent Fund**

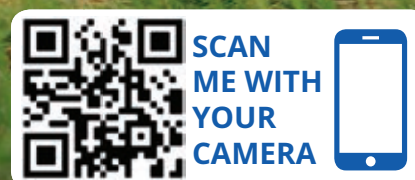
**SUPPORTING SERVING AND  
FORMER MEMBERS OF THE  
RAF AND THEIR FAMILIES**



**WE CAN HELP WITH  
SUPPORT FOR FAMILIES  
& RELATIONSHIPS**

**FREE CALL**  
**0300 102 1919**  
**[rafbf.org/relationships](https://rafbf.org/relationships)**

The RAF Benevolent Fund is a registered charity in England and Wales (1081009) and Scotland (SC038109)





“We tried to give everyone the best chance to hold the event...”

UKAFFC manager FS Dyfan Pierce on the cancellation of the Kentish Cup due to Covid-19  
**See p28**



“I hope I have a few more years left to carry on the good work...”

RAFBF champion fundraiser George Dunn, 98  
**See p16**



“Being at home meant I was completely uninhibited with wild abandon...”

Paloma Faith on recording her new album in her basement during lockdown  
**See R'n'R p4-5**



## RAF News

**RAF News**  
Room 68  
Lancaster Building  
HQ Air Command  
High Wycombe  
Buckinghamshire  
HP14 4UE

**Editor:** Simon Williams  
**Email:** editor@rafnews.co.uk

**Features Editor:** Tracey Allen  
**Email:** tracey.allen@rafnews.co.uk

**News Editor:** Simon Mander

**Sports Editor:** Daniel Abrahams  
**Email:** sports@rafnews.co.uk  
**Tel:** 07966 429755

**All advertising:**  
Edwin Rodrigues  
**Tel:** 07482 571535  
**Email:** edwin.rodrigues@rafnews.co.uk

**Subscriptions and distribution:**  
JPI Media Print Holdings Ltd  
26 Whitehall Road  
Leeds  
LS12 1BE  
**Tel:** 020 7855 7574  
**Email:** rafnews@jpress.co.uk

# Lifesaver Sam's Poppy plea

## Simon Mander

A RAF MEDIC who helped save lives at the height of the Covid-19 crisis is spearheading the British Legion's Poppy Appeal.

Flt Lt Samantha Rawlinson worked on an Intensive Care Unit in Birmingham supporting the NHS during the pandemic.

The 27-year-old, who joined the Air Force as a medical cadet at university, said: "I didn't realise just how much the Royal British Legion does for the Armed Forces Community.

"There's a misconception that they only focus on the elderly veterans, but the Legion does so much to help current serving personnel.

"The Armed Forces are always here, and we'll always be here supporting the country – this time the challenge has been Covid.

"The military has had a huge part to play, from building the Nightingale Hospital to supporting the testing capability."

Now working at the Defence Medical Rehabilitation Centre Covid-19 Recovery Service at Stanford Hall, Flt Lt Rawlinson is calling on the public to support the Legion's biggest annual fundraising campaign.

"The need for this support hasn't gone away just because there are fewer Poppy Appeal collectors on the streets this year," she said.

"In fact, the pandemic has probably only increased the need for assistance, for example with mental wellbeing and financial support for younger veterans who may have lost income due to the pandemic and are facing homelessness.

"The Legion helps provide physical and mental wellbeing, financial and employment support, which is still desperately needed at the moment."



**SUPPORT:** RAF Medic Flt Lt Sam Rawlinson is one of thousands of military personnel backing the annual Poppy Appeal PHOTO: RBL

## This Week In History



**1956**

### Suez crisis

RAF VALIANT (pictured below) and Canberra begin military operations against 12 Egyptian airfields as the Suez Canal is closed following the rejection of an Anglo-French ultimatum.



**1939**

### Hurricane debut

Sqn Hurricane operating from Vassincourt in France opens the RAF's WWII account in continental Europe when it downs a Dornier Do17P reconnaissance aircraft.



**1992**

### Radar replacement

THE FAMOUS 'golf balls' at RAF Fylingdales are replaced with the three-sided AN/FPS-115 phased-array radar, known as the 'cheese grater'.

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





**ROYAL  
AIR FORCE**

**G-SHOCK**

# **OFFICIAL ROYAL AIR FORCE COLLABORATION**

**G-SHOCK is proud to partner with the  
Royal Air Force on the new limited edition  
GRAVITYMASTER GR-B200RAF**



**[G-SHOCK.CO.UK/MOD](https://www.g-shock.co.uk/mod)**

As a proud supporter of the UK's Armed Forces Community,  
G-SHOCK is delighted to offer a **20% discount** to members  
of the Defence Discount Service.



# The Crimson tide

## Huge joint exercise will bolster UK security in face of growing threats

### ● From front page

The expanded programme includes missions for Marham's Lightnings and the helicopters that will embark on HMS Queen Elizabeth in 2021.

Exercise Director Gp Capt Rob Barrett said: "Crimson Warrior is the largest, most complicated flying exercise we have held for many years and a vital part of the preparation for HMS Queen Elizabeth's first operational deployment.

"It will challenge both the UK and the USA's air forces in the full range of Air and Space power roles and has been just as much of a challenge to organise and run, in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic."

The exercise runs until November 5, controlled by directing staff from Waddington's 92 Sqn, and is a critical element of 617 (Dambusters) Sqn and the US Marine Corps' preparation against realistic threats and scenarios.

It also enables UK Typhoons and Lakenheath-based USAF F15s to link up.

OC 617 Sqn Cdr Mark Sparrow said: "We are looking forward to putting the skills we have gained to the test in Crimson Warrior to show we are ready to deploy on Carrier Strike Group 21."

Honington-based 3 FP Wing and 15 Sqn RAF Regiment are taking the opportunity to practise rescuing downed aircrew using Chinooks.

Fg Off Scott Harrison said: "It's a fantastic opportunity to practise personnel recovery in an environment which we could not hope to replicate at the wing or squadron level."

Coningsby-based Typhoon crews, who normally use Exercise Cobra Warrior to put one-tour pilots through the tough Qualified Weapons Instructors course, are also involved.

Their typically punishing

schedule would normally see candidates detach to Lossiemouth to fire live weapons against Garvie Island on the Cape Wrath range.

But Covid-19 travel restrictions

means they are launching long-range sorties from the Lincolnshire station instead, supported by RAF Brize Norton's Voyager tankers, and using video conferencing to reduce face to

face contact.

Crimson Warrior is the climax of Typhoon Warrior combat training run by 29 Sqn, involving the entire British Eurofighter Force, USAF F-15Cs and F-15Es from Lakenheath, Voyagers, E-3D Sentry, Hercules and Chinook.

Its missions subjected Royal Navy Type 45 Destroyers, HMS Defender and HMS Diamond, to much larger simulated attacks involving up to a total of 40 aircraft instead of the

usual maximum of 22.

After the completion of 10 Typhoon Warrior sorties Crimson Warrior missions are the top guns' final airborne hurdle before graduation.

It will test their skills in fighting enemy aircraft, defending against surface-to-air missiles, and attacking targets already known during mission planning and those identified during the mission.



## Falcons prepare for comeback



NEW  
OC: Flt  
Lt Chris  
Wilce

COVID-HIT parachute display team the RAF Falcons has appointed a new boss to prepare it for next year's season.

The Brize-based daredevils had to cancel this summer's programme due to the global pandemic but incoming OC Flt Lt Chris Wilce is looking forward to making a comeback.

He said: "I hope that 2021 will be full of exciting opportunities for the team and our supporters, and together we can bounce back with the rest of the nation from what has been a difficult 2020."

He replaces Flt Lt Ash Grey-Smart, who kept the group's skills up to date by conducting

essential military parachute training.

He said: "I wish Chris and the team every success going forward and hope they can continue to showcase the vital contribution Parachute Jumping Instructors play in defence."

Flt Lt Wilce will lead the Falcons through rigorous winter training and will also form part of their famous non-contact canopy stack, something he has aspired to do since secondary school.

Working alongside him will be a new deputy, Flt Lt Stu Philpott, who has recently joined the team.



SUPPORTING ROLE: RAF Voyager joins Crimson Warrior from its Brize Norton base



# H

## HAYFIELD

### EXCEPTIONAL NEW HOMES

WITH £5,000 ARMED FORCES DISCOUNT AND  
THE GOVERNMENTS FORCES HELP TO BUY SCHEME



#### HAYFIELD PLACE

SILSOE  
BEDFORDSHIRE  
0800 048 4865



#### HAYFIELD GATE

CLIFTON  
BEDFORDSHIRE  
0800 048 4867



#### HAYFIELD GREEN

STANTON HARCOURT  
OXFORDSHIRE  
0800 048 4863

COMING SOON - GREAT GRANSDEN (CAMBRIDGESHIRE), WOBURN SANDS (BUCKINGHAMSHIRE) AND BLUNSDON (WILTSHIRE)



Our Armed Forces Discount is available across all our developments. The Government's Forces Help to Buy scheme can be used in conjunction with this offer, which enables servicemen and servicewomen to borrow up to 50% of their salary (to a maximum of £25,000), interest free, to help buy their first home, move to another property on assignment, or as their family needs change. Contact us today for details.

[HAYFIELDHOMES.CO.UK](http://HAYFIELDHOMES.CO.UK)





In brief



**GAMES ON:** Prince Harry at Invictus training session in 2018

## Invictus injury game changer

**TAKING PART** in the Invictus Games has a significant short and long-term positive impact on the recovery of international wounded, injured and sick Service personnel and veterans, according to a study.

Researchers in California, where games founder Prince Harry now lives, say taking part in the event helps them overcome PTSD symptoms and speed their recovery from physical injuries.

The full report will be released in 2022 and will include data from the next Invictus event, rescheduled to take place at The Hague in 2021 after the Covid-19 pandemic.

Dominic Reid, CEO of the Invictus Games Foundation, said: "We know from competitors, their friends and families, and those cheering them on, that the positive impact of the Invictus Games on recovery is remarkable.

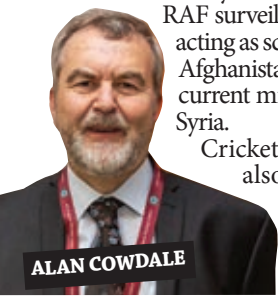
"Research is beginning to tell us how we can maximise those benefits to support the wellbeing of the international wounded, injured and sick Armed Forces community."

## Waddington boffin bonus

**WADDINGTON CHIEFS** paid tribute to retiring aviation boffin Alan Cowdale by naming the conference room at the Air and Space Warfare Centre in his honour.

The scientist has hung up his lab coat after a 38-year career working on RAF surveillance aircraft and acting as scientific advisor in Afghanistan, Libya and the current mission in Iraq and Syria.

Cricket-mad Alan is also the first civil servant to be a member of an RAF Cup-winning team.



ALAN COWDALE

# WWII icons put Jack in picture

## Tracey Allen

**A FASCINATION** with iconic World War II Spitfires and Lancasters is helping a severely autistic boy who has not spoken for five years to find a voice.

Jack Berry's interest in the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight has inspired the 13-year-old from Sunderland to produce drawings and paintings of the Flight's historic aircraft. Now there are plans to publish his work in a book.

His mum Sara said: "Jack doesn't speak. He communicates through pictures and is a massive fan of the BBMF.

"Lockdown was hard for him and he really suffered when he was not able to go to school."

She sent Jack's pictures to BBMF OC Sqn Ldr Mark Discombe, who posted them on social media.

Now RAF historian and author Simon Hepworth is planning to feature them in a book to be published in December.

Jack's artwork will appear alongside contributions from aviation experts and pilots and will feature the Tornado and Vulcan bomber.

Money raised from sales of the book will go to charity.

Sara said: "Ideally we'd like to divide it between a charity that helps with the upkeep of BBMF aircraft and one that supports RAF families who have children with special needs.

"We have no family connection to the Air Force but I can appreciate how hard it is for an RAF family when a parent of a child with special needs is away on deployment."

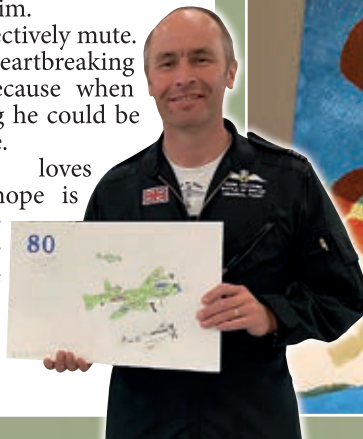
She added: "The RAF has definitely inspired and involved Jack - I cannot thank Sqn Ldr Discombe and his BBMF colleagues enough for all the time and effort they have put into encouraging him.

"Jack is selectively mute. It's really heartbreaking sometimes because when he was talking he could be so informative.

"He just loves planes. My hope is that in the future he will be able to work for a charity that restores aircraft."



**RAF FAN:** Autism sufferer Jack Berry; below, BBMF's Sqn Ldr Discombe with artwork; top, Jack gets busy with a paintbrush



# Last Vulcan facing £4 million hangar crisis



**COLD WAR WARRIOR:** XH558 is the world's last airworthy Vulcan bomber

## Staff Reporter

**A CAMPAIGN** has been launched to raise £4 million to build a visitor centre around the last airworthy Vulcan bomber - XH558.

The Vulcan To The Sky charity is appealing to the public to help raise £1.6 million of the money, along with corporate donations and sponsorships.

The charity is said to be negotiating a mortgage of up to £2.4 million for the rest of the costs of a new hangar.

The appeal, dubbed Operation Safeguard, is to finance a hangar at Doncaster Sheffield Airport. For the past three years the Vulcan has been parked outside the airport.

Dr Robert Fleming, the Trust's chief executive, said the permanent



**CASH APPEAL:** Vulcan to the Sky Trust chief Dr Robert Fleming

hangar would give XH558 a weatherproof home and would also feature an education centre that would extend to the next generation of aircraft.

● **Go to:** [vulcantothesky.org](http://vulcantothesky.org) for more details.





# WELCOME

home with a Barclays mortgage

We're proud to support the Forces Help to Buy scheme, which lets you apply for an interest-free loan of up to half your salary (£25,000 maximum) to put towards your deposit, and estate agent and solicitor fees.

Get in touch to see how we could help you find the right mortgage. Contact us 24/7, except on UK public holidays, from anywhere in the world.

[Search Barclays Forces Help to Buy](#)

Make money work for you



**All mortgages are subject to application, financial circumstances and borrowing history. T&Cs apply.**

Barclays Bank UK PLC. Authorised by the Prudential Regulation Authority, and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority and the Prudential Regulation Authority (Financial Services Register No 759676). Registered in England. Registered no 9740322. Registered Office 1 Churchill Place, London E14 5HP. August 2020.



# Tempest storms ahead in Sixth-Gen tech war

**Simon Mander**

BRITISH BOFFINS have unveiled a range of high-tech breakthroughs designed to give the RAF's future combat aircraft a battle-winning edge.

A consortium led by defence giant BAE says the sixth-generation Tempest will have game-changing radar capable of processing more data than the online population of a large city.

Experts from Leonardo UK are developing a Multi-Function Radio Frequency System sensor 10,000 times more powerful than existing systems to give the combat jet the ability to locate and attack enemies well before it is targeted itself.

Leonardo's Air Programmes director Iain Bancroft said: "The collaborative relationship between Team Tempest and our network of academic and SME partners enables us to bring together the 'best of the best' engineering talent from across the UK."

"Our new radar technology is a concrete example of the gains this approach has already brought, costing 25 per cent less to develop while providing over 10,000 times more data than existing systems."

Leonardo has tested sub-systems using the new technology at its Edinburgh site with airborne demonstrations expected in the next few



**COMBAT EDGE:** The prototype Tempest is raising the stakes in data processing and military use of AI and virtual flight systems. Left, technician testing VR controls being developed for the UK's first 6th-Generation fighter. PHOTOS: BAE

years. Separately, BAE has begun flight testing Tempest's 'wearable cockpit' technologies which replace physical controls with augmented and virtual reality displays projected directly inside the visor of a helmet, which can be instantly configured to suit any mission.

Concepts including a 'virtual co-pilot' are still being developed but could take the form of an 'avatar' built into the cockpit to interact with the pilot.

BAE Systems has trialled a new generation of 'psycho-physiological' technologies, including

eye-tracking, to better understand increasing pilot exertion, stress, workload and fatigue in controlled test flight conditions in a Typhoon.

MBDA UK has embedded one

of its Human Factors engineers within the team so new weapons can exploit future technologies currently under development.

British aerospace giant Rolls-

Royce is developing an advanced combustion system to increase engine efficiency, meaning the aircraft can go further, faster, or produce less carbon dioxide.



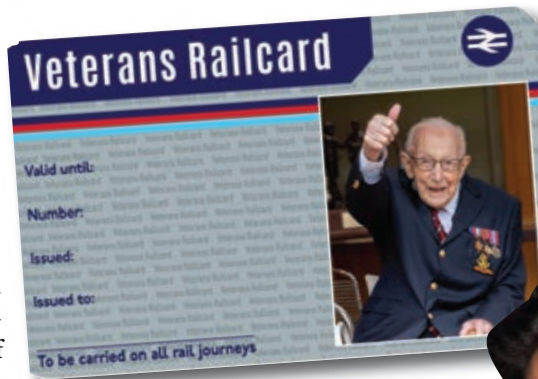
## Veterans get ticket to ride

EX-MILITARY CELEBRITIES Olympic double gold medallist Dame Kelly Holmes and former Army officer and *Great British Bake Off* winner Sophie Faldo teamed up to launch a new Veterans Railcard.

The discount scheme is for anyone who has served in the Armed Forces or Merchant Marines who has seen duty on legally defined military operations, and gives a third off most rail fares.

An estimated 830,000 people are expected to benefit from cheaper travel with some fares slashed by up to 60 per cent for a companion and up to four children.

The Railcard will be available for a special introductory price of £21 for one year or £61 for three years until March 31, as either a physical card or a digital version on a mobile phone, and will be available for use on journeys



Darren Millar has welcomed confirmation that Welsh veterans are also included in the scheme.

He said: "We owe it to those who sacrifice so much for our country to provide them with the very best services and support."

from November 5.

Rail delivery group director Robert Nisbet said: "We're delighted to have worked to help make rail travel even cheaper for veterans and, in doing so, connect them to job opportunities and training, as well as to their family and friends."

Armed Forces and Cadets cross-party group chairman



**SUPPORTER:**  
Military veteran  
Dame Kelly  
Holmes

## Charity offers lifeline as Covid-19 furlough ends

THE RAF Benevolent Fund wants any working age veterans affected by Covid-19 to contact them if they face financial problems as the government's furlough scheme ends.

According to the charity more than £8 million in benefits for RAF veterans has gone unclaimed since the Fund launched its benefits and advice service five years ago.

The service provides tailored advice and information to help working age and pensions age veterans and their partners to navigate the benefits system, whether they are claiming benefits for the first time or facing a change in circumstances or reduction in income, said an RAFBF spokesperson.

Laura Austin-Pugh, welfare benefits executive for the Fund, added: "In 2019 alone we identified £1.6 million of benefits which could be claimed by RAF veterans."

"We can carry out benefit checks for you, advise on how to make benefit claims, and how to challenge

benefits decisions you disagree with. We can also advise on any income maximisation schemes that might be available to you, which can reduce your outgoings and expenses to make more of your income."

The Fund helped one couple, both veterans, who were made redundant by the same employer after 15 years in their jobs.

The spokesperson said: "Their combined redundancy package, and existing savings, meant they did not qualify for any means-tested benefits. We looked into their case and, as they had been in full-time employment for the previous two years, advised them they were likely to be eligible for new-style Job Seekers Allowance while they looked for alternative employment. The executive identified this to be £74.35 a week, for each of them, for the next six months."

● Check to see if you qualify by emailing: [advice@rafbf.org.uk](mailto:advice@rafbf.org.uk) or call: 0300 102 1919 for more information.



# Hot shot Hazel flying high with Typhoon



**RAF PHOTOGRAPHER SAC Hazel Reader got every aviation buff's dream assignment – a back seat in a Typhoon for a recent photo shoot.**

The Coningsby-based camerawoman was called in when 12 Sqn needed to capture imagery of exercises with the Royal Navy's latest Type 45 Destroyer HMS Defender.

The results, including the fast jets conducting a dramatic low-level flypast over the North Sea, gave her and the aircrew a chance to hone their skills.

"I have flown numerous times in Hawks for a variety of photographic tasks, so I was genuinely excited to be given

the opportunity to fly backseat in a Typhoon," said SAC Reader.

"This particular sortie was to capture Typhoon flying over HMS Defender and my window of opportunity was limited, which proved challenging, but it was a help to have direct communications with the pilot.

"There was also a chance to capture the other aircraft which flew alongside, and I am really happy with the results.

"I absolutely love flying and being able to combine it with my love for photography makes for the perfect day out."

United  
Kingdom  
Special  
Forces



**Search UKSF on MODnet**  
[SFTC-UKSF-Recruiting@mod.gov.uk](mailto:SFTC-UKSF-Recruiting@mod.gov.uk)



# Forces call-up to help hit £50m Poppy Appeal target

## Staff Reporter

DEFENCE CHIEF Ben Wallace has issued a call to arms to the UK military – to help ensure the Royal British Legion achieves its £50 million target as Covid-19 threatens to hit the annual Forces fundraiser.

In an open letter to British military personnel, he said: “Every year, members of the Armed Forces wear the poppy with pride and help to collect donations from the public – at railway stations, supermarkets, or in our places of work.

“This year we face unique challenges, but ones that we can

work together to overcome and demonstrate our Remembrance with pride.

“It is the same can-do spirit that you, alongside our NHS workers, carers and countless volunteers, showed time and again this year as you took part in the nation's fight back against the virus, overcoming huge logistical challenges, setting up Nightingales and providing hands-on medical care to those in need.”

Thousands of Forces veterans, many of them elderly, hit the streets to raise funds for the appeal

but the army of street collectors is expected to fall dramatically due to Covid-19 restrictions.

This year's commemorations for Remembrance Sunday and Armistice Day will not see the traditional crowds gather at The Cenotaph due to the virus threat and social distancing rules.

However, organisers are hoping local communities across the country will still be able to mark

the event and boost the fundraising campaign.



**FRONTLINE FUNDRAISING:**  
Airmen volunteer for duty in 2019. Far right, Defence Secretary Ben Wallace backs the appeal. Inset centre, puppy appeal in the capital last year. PHOTOS: MOD



[www.britishlegion.org.uk/get-involved/poppy-appeal](http://www.britishlegion.org.uk/get-involved/poppy-appeal)

**Back the Poppy Appeal**

## Tom's a run-away winner

C-17 PILOT Flt Lt Tom Mountney has scooped a top Air Force award after netting more than £13,000 for good causes.

He received a RAF Benevolent Fund award for his charity crusade for couples hit by miscarriage misery.

He and his wife Anne suffered several miscarriages before finally celebrating the birth of their daughter and wanted to help others who have been through the ordeal.

He completed a 450-mile run from Ben Nevis in Scotland to Scafell Pike in the Lake District, finishing in Snowdon, in Wales, in a record nine days, 11 hours and 30 minutes.

Tom said: “It's a huge honour to receive this award from the Fund, the very people who helped my wife and I in our hour of need.

“To be able to give back to them and raise awareness of the great work they do has been one of the most challenging but gratifying experiences of my life.”

There was double joy at the awards for the home of the RAF's Chinook Force.

RAF Odiham scooped the prestigious Station of the Year Award for the second time running.

Station Commander Gp Capt Nick Knight said: “We are thrilled to be recognised once again.”

● See p16-17 for full report



## Covenant misses the mark with millennials

### Tracey Allen

ONE IN ten millennials think the Armed Forces Covenant is an action film starring tough guy actor Dolph Lundgren or a computer game, according to a survey by charity chiefs.

The report by welfare group SSAFA also showed that 80 per cent of people polled had never heard of the government's Forces pledge, while 67 per cent thought Defence chiefs should do more to support Britain's veteran community.

The Tri-service charity also revealed that the number of Service veterans needing their support is set to double by the end of the year.

According to researchers the number of people approaching the organisation to help them cope with the pressures of moving to Civvy Street has been exacerbated by the coronavirus crisis.

A ‘lack of understanding’ and continued misrepresentation of the Forces in the media was also

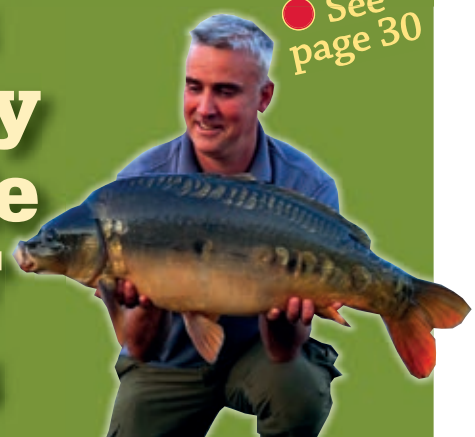


**COVENANT CONFUSION:** Action hero Dolph Lundgren

cited as a reason for Service leavers facing a challenging environment, a SSAFA spokeswoman said.

She added: “The report graphically illustrates the level of misunderstanding about the ongoing needs of the ex-Forces when they leave the military.”

## There's a Disney fairytale for RAF anglers



● See page 30



# Thinking about ADOPTION?

**SSAFA, the Armed Forces  
charity is a Registered Adoption  
Agency, covering the whole of  
the UK and has been rated  
'Outstanding' by Ofsted.**

We are military specialists, who understand  
your adoption needs. We promote equality and  
welcome applications from all members of  
the serving community.

**To find out more**

**Call 020 7463 9326**

**Email [adoption@ssafa.org.uk](mailto:adoption@ssafa.org.uk)**

**Visit [ssafa.org.uk/adoption](https://ssafa.org.uk/adoption)**

"Prospective adopters chose  
this agency because they felt  
understood as military families,  
offered a non-judgemental  
approach and saw strengths  
which other agencies had  
considered as weaknesses.  
Adopters can share any issues  
without being judged, in the  
knowledge that they will  
receive unconditional support."

**- OFSTED**



With the help of SSAFA, RAF engineer and  
single father Marcus, adopted his 18 month  
old son.

**ssafa** | the  
**Armed Forces**  
charity

Registered as a charity in England and Wales Number 210760  
in Scotland Number SCO38056 and in Republic of Ireland  
Number 20202001. Established 1885. S487.0120

**Ofsted**  
Outstanding  
Provider



# T-2 for two

**Hawk training unit follows Qatar Typhoon deal**



**COMBAT TRAINING:** Pilots hone their combat skills in the Hawk T-2 before moving to the Typhoon (inset above)



## Simon Mander

**BRITISH AND Qatari Hawk jets could soon be flying together in a new joint squadron under a deal signed by the two countries.**

The move follows in the slipstream of 12 Squadron, the Coningsby-based Typhoon unit formed by both nations.

Defence Secretary Ben Wallace and his Qatari counterpart His Excellency Dr Khalid bin Mohamed Al Attiyah signed a Statement of Intent setting out the UK offer of a British base for the Arab state's recently acquired nine Hawk aircraft.

The news came as details emerged of the latest strike by RAF Reaper unmanned aircraft against Daesh in a mission co-ordinated by the RAF's 83 Expeditionary Air Group based in Al Udeid, Qatar.

Defence Secretary Ben Wallace said:

"Building upon the success of our joint Typhoon squadron, this new era of collaboration will deliver prosperity and security benefits for both our nations."

12 Sqn is the UK's first joint unit since World War II and its new Lincolnshire headquarters will allow pilots and aircrew from both countries to train together in state-of-the-art facilities.

Since commencing flying in June, 12 Sqn have trained with heavy weapons and taken part in an exercise at sea alongside the Royal Navy.

The Statement of Intent provides the RAF with increased flying hours, gives the Qataris RAF-accredited training, and makes a long-term investment in infrastructure and training facilities.

The two nations will continue talks to establish air-to-air refuelling support for Qatar.

The deal builds upon the Defence



**GULF ALLY:** Defence Secretary Ben Wallace with Qatari defence chief Dr Khalid bin Mohamed Al Attiyah

Secretary's visit to the Middle Eastern state in September, where he toured the Combined Air Operations Centre in Al Udeid.



**SUPPORT:** Forces in Mind Trust is backing conference

## Vets' mental health probe nets funding

THE FORCES in Mind Trust has awarded £45,000 to King's College, London to fund a conference on veterans' mental health.

The grant means the one-day King's Centre for Military Health Research Veterans' Mental Health Conference will be sponsored for three years, from 2021 to 2023.

The aim of the conference, which attracts prominent academics and mental health practitioners, is to increase the understanding of veterans' mental health needs and improve support across the Forces community, organisers said.

Ray Lock, the FiMT's chief executive, added: "Feedback from previous years has confirmed that this is an important and highly-valued event."

"Delegates can learn about the latest research on the mental health needs of veterans and their families, and interact directly with the researchers themselves."



**CRANWELL TRIBUTE:** Viscount Trenchard poses at the statue of his grandfather

## Standing tall

A SEVEN-FOOT statue of RAF founder Lord Trenchard has been unveiled at Cranwell Collage.

The bronze sculpture created by artist Vivien Mallock was commissioned by the Cranwellian Association and has been erected on the west side of College Hall Officers' Mess.

The statue was formally unveiled by Cranwellian president Sir Michael Graydon and Viscount Trenchard, grandson of the RAF's founding father.

# Cranwell duo wing it to qualify on Phenom

TWO PILOTS are the latest aviators to win their wings despite having to train under Covid-19 restrictions.

Flt Lt Matt Crolla and Flt Lt Dan Mumford completed final handling tests at the end of their multi-engine training, overcoming obstacles posed by social distancing rules.

Flt Lt Crolla said: "The pandemic led to various challenges – specifically-assigned instructors, socially-distanced briefs and limited time in the workplace."

"To have the opportunity to continue training on a cutting edge platform, earning my wings and progressing towards the frontline

during such unprecedented times, is something I'm grateful for."

Acting Officer Commanding 45 Squadron, Sqn Ldr Dave Savage, presented both pilots with their coveted brevets ahead of a formal graduation.

He said: "I wish you all the very best for your future aviation careers wherever they take you. Fly safe and strive to maintain throughout your flying careers the high standards that you have proven capable of here at 45 Sqn."

The Cranwell-based unit flew the King Air B200 until 2017 when it was retired from service and replaced by the Embraer Phenom TMk1 under the new UK Military Flying Training System.



**GRAD ALL OVER:** Flt Lts Crolla and Mumford are the latest pilots to qualify on the Embraer Phenom





# RAF SPORTS LOTTERY

## HOW WOULD YOU CELEBRATE WINNING OUR £10,000 JACKPOT?

Still only £1 a ticket, now with 20 cash prizes every week!

**SIGN UP TODAY**

[www.rafcf.org.uk/sports-lottery](http://www.rafcf.org.uk/sports-lottery)

**1ST  
PRIZE**

**£10,000**

**2ND  
PRIZE**

**£3,000**

**3RD  
PRIZE**

**£2,000**

**4TH  
PRIZE**

**£1,000**

**5TH  
PRIZE**

**£500**

**PLUS  
15xPRIZES**

**£100**

   **RAFCentralFund**

**BeGambleAware.org**

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 bulletin

# Elgin marvel



**POSEIDON ADVENTURE:** Crew of the *City of Elgin* arrive at the P-8 fleet's new Lossiemouth home

**Subhunter moves  
into £132m  
Lossie home**



## Simon Mander

**BRITAIN'S NEW subhunter landed at its new home for the first time following the completion of £75 million runway improvements to Lossiemouth.**

The first of a fleet of nine Poseidon MRA1 aircraft – ZP802, named the 'City of Elgin' – touched down and parked outside a new £132m centre at the Moray base, which houses pilots, engineers and personnel.

RAF Lossiemouth Station Commander Gp Capt Chris Layden said the arrival ushered in a new era for the base in delivering combat



air power and maritime patrol operations.

"This is just the beginning of our expansion and modernisation as one of the RAF's most strategically important stations in the UK," he said.

The first Poseidon landed on British soil in February and CXX Sqn crews have been conducting operational missions ever since.

Meanwhile, 54 Sqn has been training new pilots and weapons systems operators – part of the 400

additional military personnel who will transfer to Lossiemouth to fly and operate the

nine aircraft. Resurfacing the base's runways and operating surfaces began in January and included stripping and strengthening taxiways and dispersals.

From July, both runways were out of use and the station's Quick Reaction Alert Typhoons temporarily moved to Leuchars Station in Fife, while Eurofighter training continued at Kinloss Barracks.

All Typhoon and Poseidon operations are now back at their permanent home and a further £400m is being invested to future-proof the station, including possibly the world's first digital air traffic control tower on a military airfield.



**DOORSTEP MISSION:** Personnel join local authority teams in Birmingham's Selly Oak district

## Midlands mission for Covid teams

RAF PERSONNEL have been collecting Covid home testing kits with Birmingham City Council staff as a second wave of the global pandemic grips the Midlands.

Airmen and women backed up local authority officials in Selly Oak as part of the military Covid mission, codenamed Op Rescript.

Military support from 51 Sqn RAF Regiment and RAF Music Services personnel enables many more kits to be delivered and collected and offers a way for vulnerable people to get tested, a spokesman said.



## SSAFA socks it to Santa

FORCES CHARITY SSAFA is hoping for a festive bonus from sales of jazzy military-style socks.

The eye-catching striped footwear features traditional RAF, Army and Navy colours and will be going on sale to help raise funds for the organisation, which supports serving personnel and veterans.

A company spokesman said: "One of the business founders served in the Armed Forces, so knowing sales of some of our products will go some way to helping military individuals and families who are in need is both humbling and satisfying."

Manufacturer Win or Lose will donate £1 from every sale to the charity.

● Go to [win-or-lose.com/shop/socks/ssafa/](http://win-or-lose.com/shop/socks/ssafa/)

# Chief's Gulf states tour to strengthen Coalition

## Staff Reporter

THE CHIEF of the Air Staff has visited RAF personnel serving in the Middle East and Cyprus to strengthen relationships with Coalition partners.

Air Chief Marshal Sir Mike Wigston stopped off in Saudi Arabia, Oman, and Qatar, as well as visiting personnel spearheading the fight against Daesh on Operation Shader.

He held discussions with the

Commander of the Royal Saudi Arabian Defence Force, toured a military technology college with the Commander of the Omani

Royal Air Force and met the Qatar Emiri Air Force's first female trainee fast jet pilot.

ACM Wigston also visited the US-led Coalition Combined Air and Space Operations Centre and was briefed by Deputy Combined

Force Air Component Commander USAF Major General Michael Koscheski.



**OP SHADER:** CAS Sir Mike Wigston meets frontline Typhoon crews fighting Daesh terror group PHOTO: MOD



# Odiham does the heavy lifting again

## Home of Chinook takes charity Station of Year award second time in a row

**R**AF ODIHAM has been named the Station of the Year for the second time running at the annual RAF Benevolent Fund awards.

The ceremony was held virtually for the first time, due to the coronavirus pandemic.

As well as raising more than £12,000 in the past year for the leading RAF welfare charity, Odiham hosted the Fund's centenary campaign launch in April 2019. The 'human radar' saw more than 2,000 RAF personnel, cadets and dependants gather at the station creating a spectacular launch which received wide news coverage.

Personnel on the Hampshire station also took part in a trial for a new welfare initiative and hosted the Fund's trustees on an away day, as well as organising a Christmas lunch for RAF veterans in the local community.

Odiham's Station Commander, Gp Capt Nick Knight, said: "We are thrilled RAF Odiham has been recognised once again as the Benevolent Fund's Station of the Year. The significance of support provided by the Fund cannot be understated – put simply, it makes a huge difference."

The **RAF Stations Challenge Cup**, which recognises the base that has raised the most money through sporting events, was won by **RAF Spadeadam**.

To mark the Royal Air Force's centenary, a team at RAF Spadeadam rejuvenated a popular race and donated a percentage of the proceeds to the Benevolent Fund. The RAF Spadeadam Half Marathon is now a fixture on the running calendar in Cumbria and has raised thousands of pounds for the Fund.

Station Commander Wg Cdr Matt Lawrence said: "RAF Spadeadam is a large station by area but with only 190 personnel. We had to think of innovative ways to support the Fund. We have supported them as they have supported us magnificently. It is a huge honour to be awarded the Stations Cup."

**R**AF Brize Norton-based C-17 pilot **Flt Lt Tom Mountney** won the **Above and Beyond** title. He raised more than £13,500 running an ultra-marathon over the Three Peaks last year. He completed the 450-mile run from Ben Nevis in Scotland to Scafell Pike in the Lake District, finishing in Snowdon, in Wales, in a record nine days, 11 hours and 30 minutes, raising money for the Fund and baby loss awareness charity Tommy's.

Tom said: "It's a huge honour to receive this award from the Fund, the very people who helped my wife and I in our hour of need. To be able to give back to them and raise awareness of the great work they do has been one of the most challenging but gratifying experiences of my life."

Tom and his wife Anna chose



the two charities as a thank-you for the support they received when they suffered several miscarriages last year. The couple now have a baby daughter.

**Jess Nugent**, from RAF Coningsby, was named **Airplay Youth Worker of the Year**.

Her nominee described Jess as 'an outstanding youth worker who is dedicated and professional'.

Jess, 26, said: "I love my job and Airplay Coningsby is so special because of my enthusiastic staff team, past and present, and especially our incredible young people who are a credit to us as a club, as well as to the community."

Former Bomber Command pilot **George Dunn**, 98, was honoured with the **Special Recognition Award** for his long-standing support for the charity.

George, from Saltdean in Sussex, raised tens of thousands of pounds for the Fund through signings and appearances at air shows last summer. He also took part in interviews and photoshoots to support the Fund's campaign to get RAF veterans back on the radar.

He said: "Winning this award is a great honour. A lot of it is due to my colleagues in the Sussex area, who along with myself raised money for the Fund over the last 10 years. Sadly, many of them have passed away but I hope I have a few more years left when I can carry on the good work."

The other award winners were:

- Royal Air Force Air Cadets/University Air Squadron of the Year – Bristol University Air Squadron.
- Fundraising Team of the Year – Broomhall House.
- Welfare Caseworker of the Year – Michael Maidment.
- Outstanding Support from an Organisation – Brian Smith. His project, The Spitfire Experience, has raised more than £100,000 for the Fund.

AVM Chris Elliot, the RAFBF's Controller, said: "During my first few months at the Fund I was struck by the dedication of our supporters, who go to incredible lengths to ensure we are able to continue our work supporting the RAF Family."

"The awards are our opportunity to celebrate those who make all of this possible and thank all our supporters."

**ULTRA-FITNESS: Flt Lt Tom Mountney**



**SPECIAL RECOGNITION:** Fundraiser George Dunn



**RADAR LOVE:** RAF Odiham's spectacular light stunt was a big hit. Inset opposite, the station's proud OC, Gp Capt Nick Knight



**TOP CASEWORKER:** Michael Maidment



**BEST YOUTH WORKER:** RAF Coningsby Airplay's Jess Nugent



**UP TO CHALLENGE:** RAF Spadeadam rejuvenated half-marathon. Inset, station's CO Wg Cdr Matt Lawrence



**PEDAL POWER:** Bristol Uni Air Sqn students impressed the RAFBF judges to ride off with an award



**OUTSTANDING SUPPORT:** Brian Smith's Spitfire Experience has raised over £100,000



## Announcements

- P6-7
- Puzzles
- P8

# R'n'R



**Win: classic  
action  
thrillers on  
DVD ● p4**

**In the pink  
- Paloma  
Faith ● p5**





*"They're unique, high quality and I couldn't be happier with how they turned out"*

AVM Sean Bell (ret'd)

Name Badges  
Baggage Tags  
Coasters  
Bespoke Commissions

All Handmade - 100% Top Grain Leather  
[www.handledhide.co.uk](http://www.handledhide.co.uk)  
Use Code "RAFNEWS15" for 15% off

**HANDLED HIDE**  
Bespoke • England



By Appointment to  
Her Majesty The Queen  
Medallists  
Worcestershire Medal Service Ltd  
Bromsgrove



### *Specialists in Orders, Decorations and Medals*



Suppliers of replacement and miniature medals.  
Medal mounting in Court and Ordinary Style  
Medals framed for display.

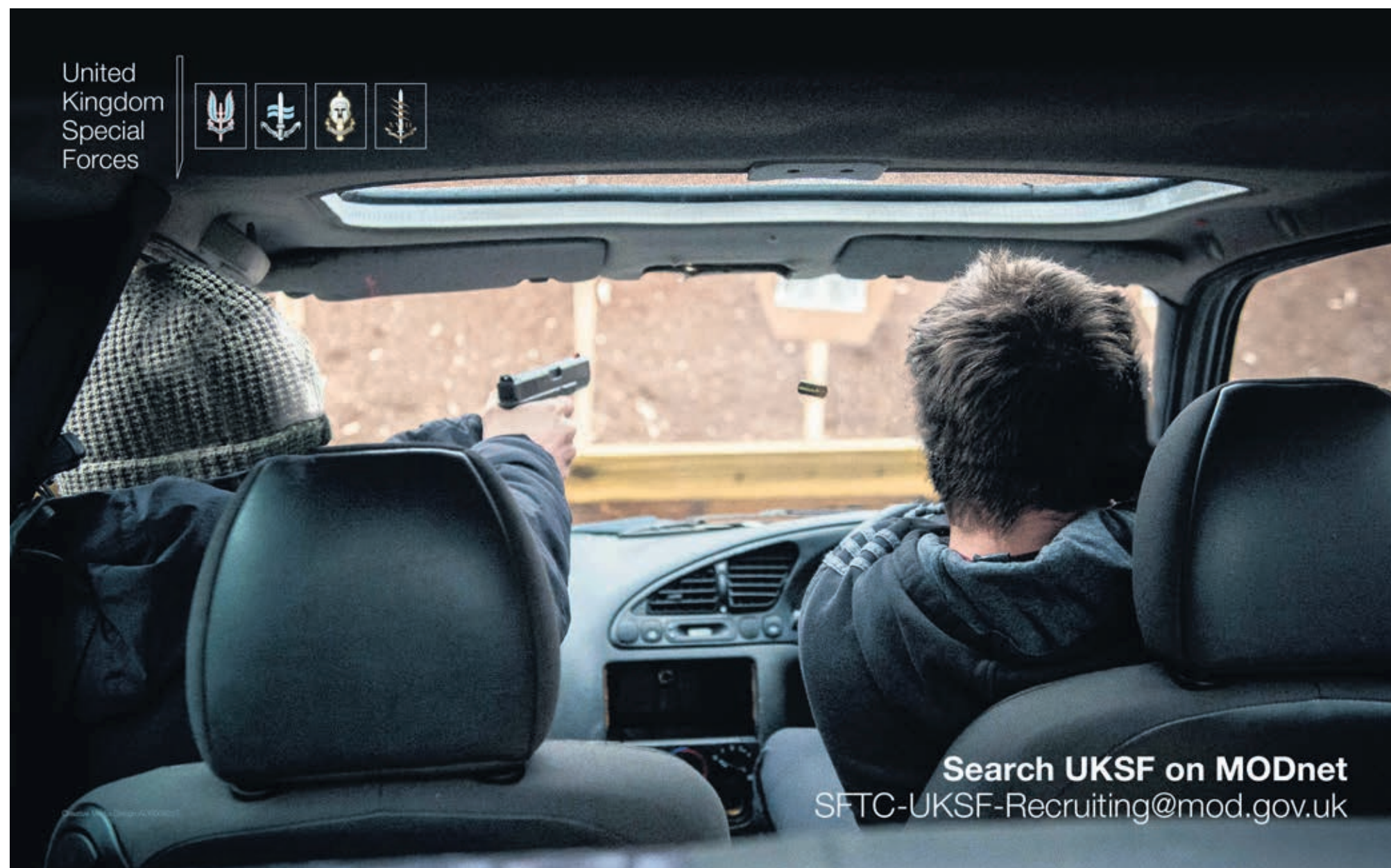
For all your medal related needs including the supply of ribbons, storage cases and other related items.  
Bespoke Medal Manufacture

#### **Worcestershire Medal Service Ltd**

56 Broad Street, Sidemoor, Bromsgrove, B61 8LL

[www.worcmedals.com](http://www.worcmedals.com)

Tel: 01527 835375 email: [sales@worcmedals.com](mailto:sales@worcmedals.com)

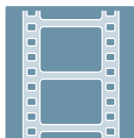


United Kingdom  
Special  
Forces



**Search UKSF on MODnet**  
[SFTC-UKSF-Recruiting@mod.gov.uk](mailto:SFTC-UKSF-Recruiting@mod.gov.uk)





## Film Review Escape and Evasion

Cert 18 – out now on digital and DVD

# Sinking in PTSD hell

## Haunted by Burma trauma

**THE SOLE survivor of a mission gone awry in Burma closes himself off from the world to suffer in silence, but his PTSD has him reliving moments on the frontline.**

Australian Seth (Josh McConville) is referred to as a national treasure, though the only people who acknowledge his past treat him with contempt. Struggling in isolation, his ex-wife tells him that their daughter shouldn't have to grow up around his condition, whilst his cloak and dagger Commander (Rena Owen) comments that she 'never trained him to be a victim'.

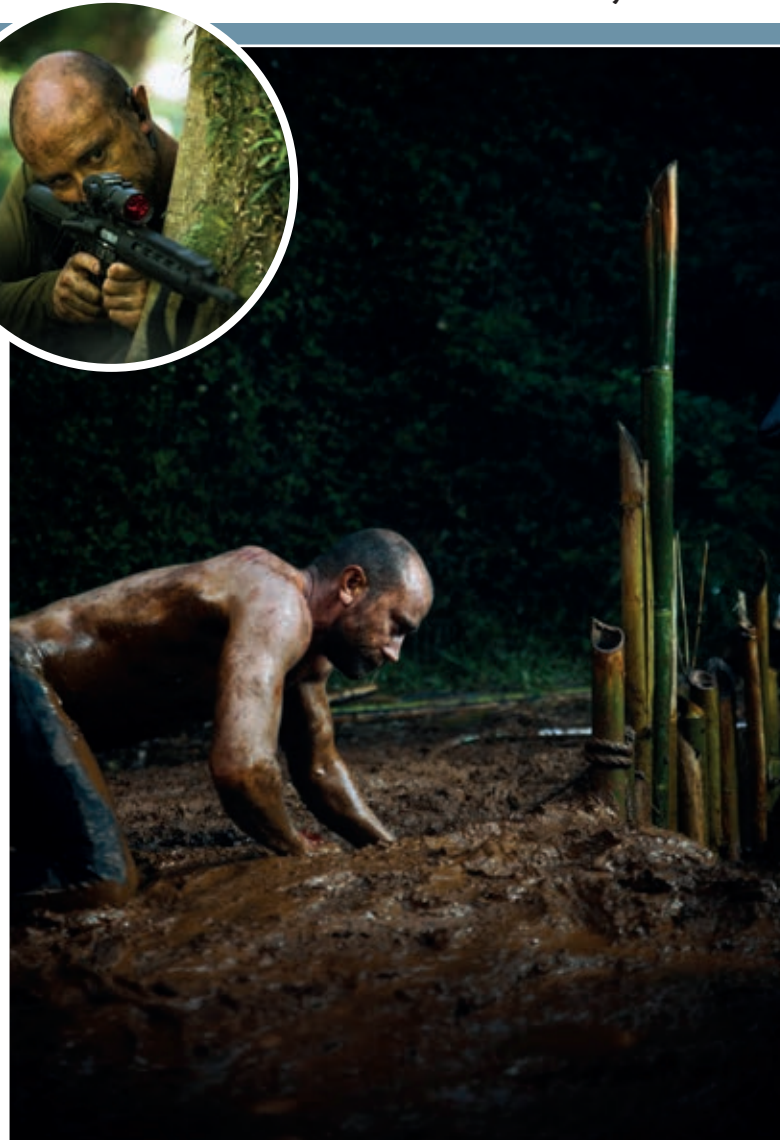
Seth's debilitating trauma is shown through the merging of flashbacks with the present, whether at a bar drowning his sorrows or at a restaurant with his daughter. Impressive hallucinatory flashes see the world around him morph into a jungle as remembered

threats emerge from the shadows. He may have made it out alive, but cannot escape the memory.

McConville plays Seth with an intensity needed for the part, believably troubled and unable to turn off. The cold lack of sympathy that he receives from his ex is shared by Rebecca (Bonnie Sveen), sister to one of Seth's Special Ops squad, who turns up wanting answers about what really happened back in Myanmar.

In a contrived effort to revisit the past and eke out the truth, Rebecca has wild swings of emotion that see her interrogating and provoking Seth, condemning his violence when he defends her, and eventually becoming some confused kind of romantic interest. This is short-lived however once she finds out the specifics of her twin brother's death.

In fairness to Rebecca, *Escape and Evasion* can't be accused of



**MUDDY MISERY:** Even back home, Seth (Josh McConville) can't escape Myanmar torment

polishing up its protagonist and making him a squeaky-clean hero – he makes decisions that are messy and contradictory, which go some way to explaining his extreme paranoia.

It is a shame that the drama

isn't on a par with the technical accomplishments of the firefights and flashbacks, but there is a convincing realism in McConville's Seth that keeps you invested.

**Review by Sam Cooney**  
3 roundels out of 5



## UK Box Office Top 10

1	Tenet
2	Michael Ball & Alfie Boe – Back Together (Concert)
3	Saint Maud
4	After We Collided
5	Cats & Dogs: Paws Unite! (below)
6	On The Rocks
7	Hocus Pocus (Re:2020)
8	I Am Greta
9	Onward
10	Bill and Ted Face The Music



Source: BFI



## Books Cover to Cover

Simon Halfon

# Halfon has sleeve design all covered

**FOLLOWING** A Kickstarter funding campaign that met its target in less than six hours, award-winning graphic designer Simon Halfon's debut book *Cover to Cover* will be published on November 16.

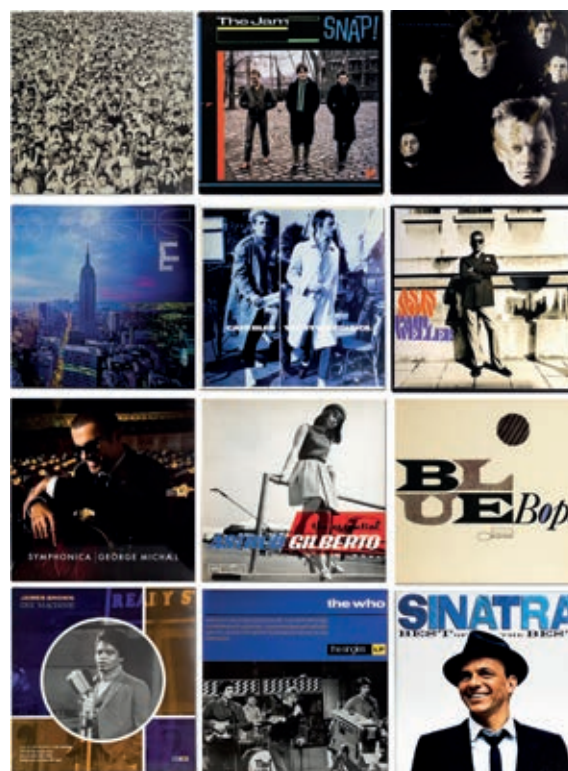
Featuring 40 years of his record sleeve designs and rarely-seen photography, Halfon revealed that the book came about when lockdown gave him the opportunity to reorganise his archives.

He said: "I began to look through boxes, many of which hadn't been opened in over three decades. Sorting through thousands of personal photographs, negatives, artist's proofs, sketches and notes, brought an overwhelming sense of nostalgia and a new-found pride for my body of work."

Halfon (pictured below) is most noted for his long-standing collaborations with George Michael, Oasis and Paul Weller (with whom he worked for the best part of 30 years) designing some of their most iconic albums, including *Listen Without Prejudice* and *Stanley Road* – his first of three collaborations with acclaimed artist Peter Blake.

Halfon's design portfolio also includes The Who, Madness, Steve Winwood, Nick Heyward, David Bowie, Frank Sinatra, John Lennon, James Brown, and the Blue Note label.

*Cover to Cover* also showcases Halfon's production work for the film *Sleuth*, starring Michael Caine and Jude Law, and the Oasis documentary *Supersonic*.

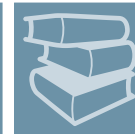


**HALFON'S WORK:** Simon really rolled up his sleeves in his career

Starting at the post room at Stiff Records in 1980, he ended up, with no formal training, in their art department before working for Neville Brody at *The Face* magazine.

Rolling Stones' manager and producer Andrew Loog Oldham said of Halfon's work: "The job of artwork on an LP cover is to explain the music, the artist and invite you in. Halfon does just that."

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



## Book Review Between the Covers

Jilly Cooper



# Jilly's the perfect tonic

**A** GOOD dose of Jilly Cooper's wit and wisdom is just what's required in these Covid-stricken times... and that's what's delivered in a newly-published collection of her classic journalism.

*Between The Covers* (Bantam Press) is a delightful diversion from the world's current woes, featuring gems from her days as a newspaper columnist for *The Sunday Times*.

Jilly (pictured) wrote the column for 13 years up to 1982, covering topics ranging from marriage and family life to the pitfalls of dinner parties, the joy of pets and 'the Middle Age Crisis'.

As she succinctly puts it in her introduction to the book, this collection – subtitled sex, socialising and survival – concerns 'my chaos as a wife and mother working from home, and our lunatic but hugely enjoyable social life.'

*Between The Covers* is poignantly dedicated to the late Godfrey Smith, the *Sunday Times* magazine editor who

commissioned her to write her first column for the title after she entertained him at a dinner party in the late Sixties with stories of her domestic disasters – including the time her red silk scarf 'strayed into a launderette wash, so my husband Leo's rugger kit came out streaked like the dawn, and he boasted of being the only member of the rugger team with a rose-pink jockstrap.'

She writes like a dream – her prose flows like a sparkling stream. Addictive and difficult to put down, you want to read the whole book in one go, then seek out more of Cooper's work.

In *Paws*, about adopting a wayward mongrel whose combative disposition earns him the moniker 'the Jaws of Putney', she muses: 'Perhaps the dogs and I should live in the country in a little cottage with neuroses growing over the door.'

Never mind Covid, a sprinkling of Jilly's joie de vivre is a tonic we need to brighten every day.

**Review by Tracey Allen**  
5 out of 5 roundels





**Music**

**Josh Groban**

Harmony

## Groban's new album was his Covid saviour

**J**OSH GROBAN releases his new album, *Harmony*, on November 20 on Reprise Records.

It features a collection of timeless songs, along with two originals, and highlights include *The Impossible Dream*, *Angels, I Can't Make You Love Me*, *Celebrate Me Home* and *She*.

The album also includes performances from Tony Award winner Leslie Odom Jr (*Hamilton*), singing with Groban on the song *Shape of My Heart* and from Grammy Award winner Sara Bareilles, duetting with Groban on the classic Joni Mitchell song *Both Sides Now*.

Groban said: "Harmony was recorded in two parts. Before the pandemic we recorded about five songs, with the full intention of making this an album of classics that I love and have always wanted to sing."



GROBAN: Duets with Sara Bareilles on LP

"We were recording and finding songs between concerts and fully expected to continue doing that for the next couple of months."

"Then, sound was replaced with solitude. To have nothing but space, and to be sharing in a collective global tragedy, changed everything. Suddenly I was not steering the ship confidently on course. The waves had to take me to, hopefully, some sunlight. The result is an album that began to take a new shape."

He added: "When I was finally able to really sing again, to interpret, to immerse myself in these timeless melodies and stories, it became my saving grace and not just a pleasure."

"Musicians and producers from all over the country and the world blended together from their respective studios and homes. The title of the album represents the seemingly miraculous full picture of those efforts becoming clear."

Go to: [joshgroban.com](http://joshgroban.com) for more information.



**Competitions**

**DVDs**

Coogan's Bluff (15)/Green Zone (15)  
Fabulous Films Ltd/Fremantle Media Enterprises

## The hunt for Saddam's WMD

**Q**UADRUPLE OSCAR winner Clint Eastwood stars in *Coogan's Bluff*, an action-packed thriller that marked the first of five collaborations between the actor and director Don Siegel, which included *Dirty Harry* and *Escape from Alcatraz*.

*Coogan's Bluff* served as a transitional film for Eastwood, bridging the gap from Westerns (for which he was primarily known at the time thanks to director Sergio Leone) into more modern-day roles.

Clint plays Walter Coogan, a softly-spoken, straightforward Arizona lawman who is sent to New York City to extradite a captured murderer (Dan Stroud).

After accidentally letting the prisoner escape, Coogan gets caught up in a life-or-death manhunt through the city's mean streets. Coogan's unconventional law enforcement techniques don't go down too well with frustrated NYC Police Lieutenant McElroy (Lee J. Cobb), who can't decide who is worse... the prisoner or the lawman.

As well as establishing Eastwood as an iconic actor, Siegel's directing style greatly influenced Eastwood when he became a



director himself. Eastwood's first taste of directing was during *Dirty Harry* when Siegel fell ill and Clint stepped in as an uncredited director.

Their roles were reversed in Eastwood's directorial debut *Play Misty For Me*, in which Siegel had a small acting part.

*Coogan's Bluff* is now out on DVD and we have copies up for grabs. To be in with a chance of winning one, simply answer the following question correctly:

**Who directed Coogan's Bluff?**

Email your answer, marked Coogan's Bluff DVD, to: [competitions@rafnews.co.uk](mailto:competitions@rafnews.co.uk) or post it to: RAF News, Room 68, Lancaster Building, HQ Air Command, High Wycombe HP14 4UE, to arrive by November 13.

**W**E ALSO have copies to win of explosive action thriller *Green Zone* on DVD, starring Matt Damon. Set in Baghdad in 2003, as Chief Roy Miller Damon leads an elite Army team searching for Weapons of Mass Destruction... instead they uncover a



deadly conspiracy of murder and deception reaching to the top.

As Miller hunts through covert and faulty intelligence that either clears a rogue regime or escalates a war in an unstable region, he discovers that no one can be trusted and the deadliest enemies are those who claim to be on his side.

Damon's character in the film is said to be based on a US Army Chief Warrant Officer named Richard 'Monty' Gonzales who had the real-life job of hunting for WMDs after the fall of Baghdad. Gonzales was hired as principal military adviser on the film.

Its director, Paul Greengrass, also directed *The Bourne Supremacy* and *The Bourne Ultimatum* starring Damon.

For your chance to win a copy of *Green Zone* on DVD, just send us the correct answer to this question:

**Where is Green Zone set?**

Email your answer, marked Green Zone DVD, to: [competitions@rafnews.co.uk](mailto:competitions@rafnews.co.uk) or post it to the address above to arrive no later than November 13.

**Win!**

## The Big Interview

Paloma Faith

# Paloma's going for the jugular

**S**INCE HER last album, *The Architect*, went to number one, Paloma Faith has been a coach on ITV's *The Voice Kids*, nominated for a clutch of industry accolades and appeared in the *Batman* prequel spin-off, *Pennyworth*.

Now expecting her second child, she releases her new album, *Infinite Things*, on November 13 and has announced a two-month UK tour, starting in September 2021.

As the coronavirus crisis took hold around the world, the enforced downtime offered her a rare chance to take stock after an intense period of work. She admitted that inhabiting her line of work can often make you 'whimsical in going with the flow', and revealed that having a toddler to take care of has, by necessity, required greater time management.

"It's made me go for the jugular more," she said.

*Better Than This* – a reflection on the fractured state of the world and hopes for the next generation – is the first single release from the new album.

"We live in a very volatile world that now seems as if we only get one chance, so I have been lucky that I've been able to put releases out there and put myself on the map," she added.

**I**t's been a far from straightforward journey for the half-Spanish, East London-born singer, who has a degree in contemporary dance and an MA in theatre directing. After early stints in cabaret, bar tending and modelling, she gravitated to singing.

Her debut album reached the top 10 in 2009, setting the tone for a career to date packed with notable milestones. There have been plenty of highlights beyond the icing on the cake of multi-platinum sales, including her friendship with the late Amy Winehouse.

Faith has stood firm on key issues – notably on one of her biggest hits to date, *Only Love Can Hurt Like This*, which featured a video with an interracial love scene. When US executives asked her to reshoot it on the grounds it 'wouldn't sell', she refused, and never spoke to them again, even if it might cost her a Stateside breakthrough. She says she'd rather have success very much on her own terms.

Her latest recordings, self-produced in her basement, allowed her the chance to push herself artistically more than ever before, she conceded.

"I think being at home meant I was completely uninhibited with wild abandon, in a way that I am not when sound engineers are looking at me."

"Also, I wasn't afraid to make mistakes, and sometimes those mistakes land in places that are wonderful, and I wouldn't make them if someone else was there. So, I feel like there's more intimacy in this record, and that there's more truth in the way I'm singing," she explained.

She added: "It is so great being a mum and I feel very lucky, as the lockdown meant we've spent a lot of time together as a family, which has been a positive."



TIGER MUM: Having a child has made Paloma more focused. Inset, her new album

**T**he album's title track, *Infinite Things*, is about her daughter, now three, and was inspired by Argentine writer and poet Jorge Luis Borge's short story, *The Aleph*, in which its central character experiences the full spectrum of human emotion, from pain to joy, within a single moment.

"With the title track, it's about seeing things through my daughter's eyes and about becoming a parent, and how that it is all about continuing humanity. You experience the worst heartache with it," said the 39-year-old.

"The album is also a commentary on society as well in respect of issues raised by living in the pandemic, and also knowing people who have lost loved ones."

"It's also about enduring love, as we're most used to hearing about the initial parts of a relationship on that first spark, so it's an area that's under-represented. I think there's a big cultural hole there that I'm aiming to address,"

Faith and her partner, French artist Leyman Lahcine, endured six rounds of fertility treatment.

She said: "I'd pretty much resigned myself

to giving up with this latest treatment. It felt like it was the last chance saloon.

"It's sad that men don't really talk about IVF in public, it's one of those things where society always assumes it is a female issue. It's something that can be hard on relationships."

She described her role in *Pennyworth* as an 'amazing experience' that she would love the chance to repeat.

Now she's eagerly anticipating heading out on the road again for another UK tour next autumn. Performing remains her grand passion, with the added bonus of designing her own sets.

She's also found time to devote to becoming an ambassador for Oxfam and Greenpeace.

She said: "Being an ambassador is fantastic, as I feel like when you're in my industry it's easy to lose sight of the reality about the world. There are a lot more pressing things going on out there than singing a pop song, so if I can use my platform for the greater good then I absolutely should and intend to."

Interview by Neill Barston

Go to: [palomafaith.com](http://palomafaith.com) for tour details.



**Competition**

**Books**

The Winter Agent



**Win!**

## One man's mission to keep D-Day plan secret

**B**ASED ON real events, Gareth Rubin's new thriller *The Winter Agent* (published by Michael Joseph) has been described as 'a superior SOE novel'.

It's February, 1944 and a bitter winter grips occupied France, where Marc Reece leads a Special Operations Executive circuit facing deadly risks, operating in secret to sabotage the German war effort.

But Reece has a second mission, secret even from his fellow agents – including Charlotte, the woman with whom he has ill-advisedly fallen in love. He must secure a document identifying a German spy at the heart of British intelligence. The fate of the Allied forces on D-Day is in his hands.

When his circuit is ambushed – with fatal consequences – Reece realises there may be a traitor in its ranks, putting everything they've been fighting for at risk. Then Charlotte goes missing.

Is she in danger, or has Reece been betrayed by the only person he thought he could trust?

With the clock ticking towards D-Day, can he find the truth before it's too late?

*The Winter Agent* is the story of a deadly game of espionage, destined to change the course of the most crucial battle in World War II.

Gareth Rubin is an author and journalist who has written for many national newspapers including *The Daily Telegraph*, *The Observer* and *The Sunday Mirror*. His first novel *Liberation Square* was a *Telegraph* Thriller of the Year.

We have copies of *The Winter Agent* to win. For your chance to own one, answer this question correctly:

**What is the title of Gareth Rubin's first novel?**

Email your answer, marked The Winter Agent competition, to: [competitions@rafnews.co.uk](mailto:competitions@rafnews.co.uk) or post it to: RAF News, Room 68, Lancaster Building, HQ Air Command, High Wycombe HP14 4UE, to arrive by November 13.

## It's (s)Tory time



**TV**

**Roadkill**

BBC One

**H**UGH LAURIE (*The Night Manager*) leads a stellar cast that includes Helen McCrory (*Peaky Blinders*), Sidse Babett Knudsen (*Westworld*, *Borgen*), Saskia Reeves (*Us*) and Patricia Hodge (*A Very English Scandal*, *Miranda*), in BBC One's political drama *Roadkill*, written by acclaimed playwright Sir David Hare (*The Judas Kiss*, *Pravda*).

Laurie plays self-made, forceful and charismatic politician Peter Laurence. Peter's public and private life seems to be falling apart – or rather is being picked apart by his enemies. With his foes so close to home, can he ever out-run his own secrets to win the ultimate prize?

Hare said: "Considering that they've formed our last six governments, it's amazing how little fiction Conservatives have generated. There are a couple of good plays about Harold Macmillan, and during the 1980s there was a huge amount of satirical vituperation against Margaret Thatcher. At that time, I wrote a film called *Paris By Night* in which Charlotte Rampling played a Thatcherite MP. But I'm typical among the writers of my time in having rarely looked closely at the appeal of Conservative values."

"In *Roadkill*, I wanted to ask what happens when you put ideals of freedom and personal responsibility above all other virtues. I was also interested in the effect of believing that every one of us is alone responsible for the destiny and progress of our own lives. But to inquire into these questions, it was essential to me to invent. I wanted to imagine what it would be like if a Conservative politician, naturally gifted with a mix of charm, intelligence, charisma and high humour, managed to find his path from a working-class household in Croydon right into the heart of Westminster."

He added: "Laurence is not based on anyone. Nor are the other characters. Mine is a parallel world to the real one, and there is



PUBLIC IMAGE: Laurence the family man with doting wife and loving daughters

no secret passage between the two. You will be wasting your time if you think the purpose of the series is to work out who everyone is 'meant to be'."

**L**aurie described *Roadkill* as 'pretty unforgiving'. He said: "It's a political drama about the price of success in the political realm and what it demands of the people who do it, and those around the person who does it."

"The story is in some regards about the price my character is prepared to pay to get to the top position and the price that he forces everyone else to pay, principally his family, but also those who pledge their loyalty to him."

"He is a man who is relatively free of the gravity of guilt and whose life mission is to keep moving forward and not to look back."

"He's a confident fellow and is confident in his ability to talk himself out of a jam."

Laurie added: "It's been enormously enjoyable to say David Hare's words and also to work with the cast that's been assembled for this. I wouldn't be here without David Hare – he wrote what I think was the first film I was ever in, called *Plenty*. I think I had three lines but it meant spending a week in the company of Meryl Streep, and blimey! That was entirely because of his support and enthusiasm, which I have tried to repay and failed."

"David has a different way of looking at and listening to people, some of which has some of that jaggedness and awkwardness that I find so much more believable and intriguing."

**Roadkill** continues on BBC One at 9pm on Sundays.





## Your Announcements

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

### Deaths

**JONES** Sara Elizabeth, née Lee, born January 12, 1970. Died peacefully in the presence of her family on October 17 at Kettering General Hospital. Much loved mum of Morgan, wife of Daff, daughter of Keith and Carol Lee, also sister to Vanessa and Daniel. Forever in our hearts.

IT is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Bill Manning, husband to Margaret Manning and father to Sharon, Siobhan, Bill, Amanda and Declan Manning. Our sadness is insurmountable at this time xxx.

**WO** Bob Moffat BEM RAF Ret'd is sad to announce the sudden death of his beloved wife Janice on October 6 at Royal Shrewsbury Hospital.



Janice Moffat

After meeting in the Merchant Navy whilst both working on a cruise liner in 1971, a whirlwind romance ensued culminating in an engagement in Sydney, Australia. Janice and Bob then married in Driffield, East Yorkshire, in November 1974, after which Janice accompanied Bob during his 43-year Service career, and was always supportive of the demands of being a Service wife and mother – often supporting other wives and family members when their spouses were posted or on

operations. This included her own tour of the Falklands where she was nicknamed G.I Janice due to being out and about every day in land rovers and helicopters, touring the island whilst Bob was 'hard at work'. G.I Janice even ended up being stranded for an extra two weeks due to bad weather preventing flights back to the UK. Following 28 years as a Reprographics Manager at Oakham School, Rutland, Janice retired to Whitchurch with Bob where they were able to share several years of fun, travelling and enjoying each other's company. Janice leaves behind her cherished husband, daughter and son-in-law Natasha and Matt and the two lovely grandsons that she doted on. Bob may be contacted on [bobmoffatbem@hotmail.com](mailto:bobmoffatbem@hotmail.com).

### Reunions

**RAF CHANGI** Association (inc. HQFEAF). The 25th Annual Reunion and 18th AGM will be on May 14-16, 2021 at the Novotel Hotel, Bostock Lane, Long Eaton, Nottingham, just off the M1 at Jnc. 25. We are still looking for new members and are open to all ranks ex - RAF/WRAF/WAAF and civilian personnel who served at RAF Changi (inc. HQFEAF) during 1946-72. For more information please contact our Membership Secretary Malcolm Flack on: 01494 728562 or email: [MemSecChangi@telco4u.net](mailto:MemSecChangi@telco4u.net) or visit: [www.rafchangi.com](http://www.rafchangi.com) for more details.

**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.

**RAF Bawdsey** Reunion Association. Due to the coronavirus pandemic we regrettably had to cancel the annual reunion in the summer. 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 call: 07513 301723.

### Museum Open Week

**VISITORS** to the Royal Air Force Museum Cosford will have the opportunity to step inside the Conservation Centre and take a look behind the scenes at aircraft conservation projects during the annual Open Week from November 9-14. As well as getting up close to current projects, including the refabrication of a Wellington bomber and the reconstruction of the Handley Page Hampden, those visiting during the Open Week will have the chance to speak to the teams who carry out the vital work. The Conservation Centre will open from between 10.15am and 3.00pm each day, with 45-minute time slots. Tickets available for each time slot are limited and must be booked in advance. Go to: [rafmuseum.org/cosford](http://rafmuseum.org/cosford) for more information and to book tickets.

### Admin Association

**THE** RAF Administrative Apprentice Association welcomes all Administrative apprentices who trained as Suppliers or Clerks at RAF St Athan, RAF Bircham Newton, RAF Halton, RAF Ruislip or RAF Hereford. Go to: [rafadappasn.org](http://rafadappasn.org) for further details.



**TRIBUTE:** The Bomber Command memorial in Green Park, London

## Join virtual service for memorial

**THIS YEAR'S** Bomber Command memorial service will be livestreamed on October 31 due to Covid-19 restrictions. Held to mark the anniversary of the memorial's opening in 2012, the service usually takes place in July.

It will be led by Rev (Sqn Ldr) Chrissie Lacey, from RAF High Wycombe, and livestreamed during a programme hosted by actress Sue Holderness, whose father Anthony served in Bomber Command during World War II.

Chief of the Air Staff Air Chief Marshal Sir Mike Wigston will read the exhortation, accompanied by bugler Cpl Benjamin Murray, from the Band of the RAF Regiment and Bomber Command veteran Warrant Officer Bill Gould will read from the Bible. Bill served on 622 Sqn as a Flight Engineer flying Lancasters.

Military author Steve Darlow will give a brief history of Bomber Command and its links to the Battle of Britain, in the Battle's 80th anniversary year.

Actress Sue Holderness, Bomber

Command veteran George Dunn, RAF veteran John Nichol and representatives from the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight, Red Arrows Aerobatic Display Team, Queen's Colour Squadron and others will take part in a compilation reading of Noel Coward's poem, *Lie in the Dark and Listen*.

The programme will also include a flypast by the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight's Lancaster.

AVM Chris Elliot, the RAF Benevolent Fund's Controller, said: "This year's service is all the more poignant as we have been unable to gather together. One silver lining of a virtual service is that veterans who would not usually have been able to travel to the memorial will be able to join the service and be a part of the act of remembrance."

Wreaths will be laid by Air Cdre Mark Hunt, representing the RAF, AVM Elliot, and several ambassadors from countries whose airmen served in Bomber Command.

■ Go to: [rafbf.org](http://rafbf.org) to register to view the event.

### How to use our service

There is no charge for conventionally-worded **birth, engagement, marriage, anniversary, death, in memoriam seeking** and **reunion** notices. For commercial small ads contact Edwin Rodrigues on: 07482 571535. We cannot, under any circumstances, take announcements over the telephone. They can be sent by email to: [tracey.allen@rafnews.co.uk](mailto:tracey.allen@rafnews.co.uk). Please note that due to the coronavirus pandemic we are currently unable to accept notices submitted by post.

### Important Notice

The publishers of *RAF News* cannot accept responsibility for the quality, safe delivery or operation of any products advertised or mentioned in this publication.

Reasonable precautions are taken before advertisements are accepted but such acceptance does not imply any form of approval or recommendation. Advertisements (or other inserted material) are accepted subject to the approval of the publishers and their current terms and conditions. The publishers will accept an advertisement or other inserted material only on the condition that the advertiser warrants that such advertisement does not in any way contravene the provisions of the Trade Descriptions Act. All copy is subject to the approval of the publishers, who reserve the right to refuse, amend, withdraw or otherwise deal with advertisements submitted to them at their absolute discretion and without explanation.

All advertisements must comply with the British Code of Advertising Practice. Mail order advertisers are required to state in advertisements their true surname or full company name, together with an address from which the business is managed.

## Raise a glass for Poppy Appeal

THE ROYAL British Legion has produced a new range of fundraising products, including candles, baking accessories and even an 'Eleventh Hour' gin (right) for this year's Poppy Appeal.

Money from sales of these products goes towards vital services and support for Service personnel, veterans and their families who are struggling through hardship, injury or bereavement, said the RBL.

Fundraising ideas for this year's Appeal can be found at: [www.rbl.org.uk/poppyappeal](http://www.rbl.org.uk/poppyappeal) and you can share your support with the Legion online using (Twitter: @PoppyLegion IG: @RoyalBritishLegion FB: @OfficialPoppyLegion) #everypoppycounts and #poppyappeal







## Your Announcements

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

# Pilot Freddie turns 100

FORMER HURRICANE pilot Flt Lt John 'Freddie' Nicoll celebrates his 100th birthday next month.

Born in Walthamstow in North London, Freddie joined the RAF in May, 1941. After initial training in the UK he went to Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) to start flying training.

He was sent to Syria to train on the Hurricane then posted to 208 Squadron in North Africa in September 1942 flying the Hurricane Mk II in the tactical reconnaissance role in the run-up to the Battle of El Alamein.

He was posted to 6 Sqn in October 1943 when they were converting to the rocket-equipped Hurricane Mk IV. He deployed with the squadron to Grottaglie, near Taranto, in the heel of Italy, in February 1944.

George Robertson, editor of 6 Sqn Association's newsletter *The Tin-Opener*, said: "Freddie and 6 Sqn had a very busy time operating the Hurricane Mk IV on anti-



**HURRICANE HERO:** Flt Lt Freddie Nicoll, left, with AVM Bob Judson



shipping duties to disrupt resupply of German forces on the Adriatic and in support of Tito's partisans along the Dalmatian coast.

"As the 8th Army advanced north, the squadron followed to Foggia, but often deploying forward to the island of Vis. By now, Freddie was a Flight Lieutenant and a flight

commander with increased responsibility. He never missed an opportunity to fly on operations. Conducting attacks on shipping, sometimes at night against heavy flak defences, was a very hazardous business during which the squadron suffered heavy losses."

Freddie, who completed 58 operational sorties with 6 Sqn, is one of only two surviving Hurricane pilots who saw service with the squadron in World War II. He will celebrate his centenary on November 5.



**COLLECTABLE:** The signed Vulcan photo and text panel

## Own a piece of aviation history

VULCAN FANS can buy collectable signed photographs of XH558, which he captained and piloted on its final journey. "These pieces of aviation history and heritage are unique. Project co-ordinator Joe Bartrop said: "Wg Cdr

Bill Ramsey kindly signed photographs of XH558, which he captained and piloted on its final journey. "These pieces of aviation history and heritage are unique. We are offering both

the photo and text plus a certificate of authenticity at £25 plus £1.40 postage." All proceeds go towards the Commemorative Window Appeal. Email: [rafwindow@scamptonchurch.org](mailto:rafwindow@scamptonchurch.org) for further details.



# WELFARE

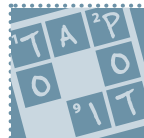
## Your WelComE account card...

A **WelComE account card** is assigned to you for your entire military career and can be used to access **telephone** and **Internet** services whilst deployed.

You should receive it after basic training. If you haven't been given it, speak to your admin officer. For more information visit: [www.mywelcome.co.uk](http://www.mywelcome.co.uk)

**Lost your account card?** No worries! Speak to your admin officer who will be able to provide you with your WelComE account number and a password to reset your PIN.





## Prize Crossword

### No. 284

Solve the crossword, then rearrange the 10 letters in yellow squares to find a RAF word

#### Across

- See 17 Across
- See 4 Down
- Fellow almost ate one pancake (7)
- Penny behind time helping (5)
- In Biafra I dodge air assault (4)
- Murderous evidence put in toilet outside Bradford (5)
- And 7 Across.** After confusing intro, bronze station appears (5,6)
- Bad smell from heartless mob is explosive (4)
- First time Ian Anderson rejoined acoustic band (5)
- Country next to North America? No, it's part of North America (7)
- Stairs up to plane journey (6)
- Information First Lady almost reached a city (6)

#### Down

- University cereal for unique creature (7)
- US spooks employ rota in this country (7)
- Orbison and Capone are first-class (5)
- And 8 Across.** Fresher pool he disturbs for military charity (4,3,6)
- It grinds as medical officer goes left and right initially (5)
- Because the man's won cricket prize (5)
- HMS Queen Elizabeth, as she's known (3,6)
- Relax after destroying the bear (7)
- After long journey first raiders reach plain, we hear (7)
- Name a support for dodgy actor (7)
- Aching after this last shouting match (5)
- Greek god in charge of chaos (5)
- In our time the German snake appears (5)

Name .....

Address .....

RAF word ..... Crossword No. 284

The winners of Prize Crossword 284 and Prize Su Doku 294 will be published in our November 13 edition. Send entries to the address printed in the Su Doku panel opposite.



■ The winner of Crossword No. 283 is Ms J Evans of High Wycombe.

#### Solution to Crossword No. 283:

**Across** – 1. Glad 8. Intercepts 9. Aeronaut 10. Pace 12. Shabby 14. Salami 15. Baltic 17. Benson 18. Thaw 19. Leuchars 21. Point Blank 22. Elms  
**Down** – 2. Lakenheath 3. Dido 4. Steady 5. Crates 6. Zeppelin 7. Isle 11. Common Room 13. Botswana 16. Celebs 17. Brutal 18. Tope 20. Hake

**Airfield** – Kandahar

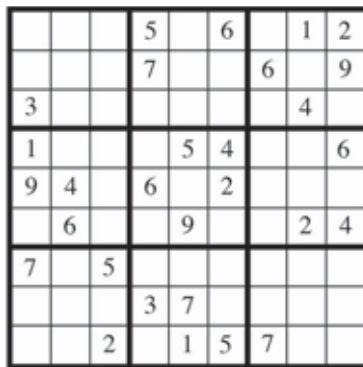


## Prize Su Doku

### No. 294

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.

Solutions should be sent in a sealed envelope marked 'Su Doku' with the number in the top left-hand corner to RAF News, Room 68, Lancaster Building, HQ Air Command, High Wycombe, Bucks, HP14 4UE, to arrive by November 13, 2020.



Name .....

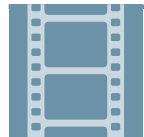
Address .....

..... Su Doku No. 294

#### Solution to Su Doku No: 293



■ The winner of Su Doku No. 293 is Frank Dawson of Innsworth, Glos.



## Film

### Ocean Film Festival

Online, Nov 17-19 (oceanfilmfestival.co.uk)

# Seas the day

## Ocean festival goes online

**T**HE OCEAN Film Festival World Tour brings a new collection of titles to UK shores next month in its first virtual edition.

The online film evenings feature a collection of short movies telling stories of seafaring adventure and marine life from the depths of the big blue. Viewers can witness wild nautical voyages, captivating coastal scenery and stunning cinematography from the comfort of their sofas – without getting their feet wet.

Tour director Nell Teasdale said: "From rowing 4,000 miles across the Atlantic to surfing the spectacular cold water waves of British Columbia, this inspirational collection of films is guaranteed to whet your appetite for an ocean adventure."

Viewers will have exclusive access to Q&As with top ocean filmmakers and behind the scenes footage. The virtual events will also

feature a live draw to win ocean-related prizes.

The shows run from November 17-19 and films start at 7.30pm, with audience members invited to explore the virtual foyer from 6.30pm, where they can download the tour magazine, enter the prize draw, take on the ultimate Ocean Film Festival quiz and more. The show will be available for 48 hours afterwards.

Highlights from this year's festival include *Bare Existence*, about Polar Bears International – a team of scientists dedicated to protecting polar bears and their habitat. In the film, a documentary crew spends seven days with the PBI team as they research and live alongside these magnificent yet endangered creatures.

In *Ocean Valour* lifelong friends Tom Rainey and Lawrence Walters set out from Manhattan, New York, to row 4,000 miles across the North Atlantic to Salcombe in



**WATER FINDER:** Camel makes it to sea

Devon. Battling 80ft waves, brutal sleep deprivation, jellyfish, sharks and some unpleasant fungus, the young Brits spend a gruelling 93 days at sea, breaking two world records and raising more than £130,000 for the Brain Tumour Charity in memory of Tom's dad.

And *Camel Finds Water* tells the story of surfer Trevor Gordon who discovers the remains of a tiny dilapidated boat in a landlocked field. He dreams of restoring it to its original glory and sailing it to find remote waves in British Columbia. But after 1,000 hours of work, will Camel be up to the challenge?

The Ocean Film Festival World Tour originated in Australia, with the aim of inspiring people to explore, respect, enjoy and protect the world's oceans. Working to promote the Marine Conservation Society, it has toured the UK and Ireland for the past six years.

■ Go to: [oceanfilmfestival.co.uk](http://oceanfilmfestival.co.uk) for more details.



## Competitions

### Books

Halton Boys ([grubstreet.co.uk](http://grubstreet.co.uk))  
Fleet Air Arm Boys ([grubstreet.co.uk](http://grubstreet.co.uk))

**Win!**

# The Brats of RAF Halton

**T**HE BRAINCHILD of RAF founder Hugh Trenchard, the RAF Halton Apprenticeship Scheme took the 'traditional' idea of an apprenticeship and interpreted it in a novel way.

It allowed teenage boys from any social background to learn a technical trade to equip them for their future lives, within and beyond the Air Force. They were known as 'Trenchard Brats'.

The scheme also gave the best an opportunity to become pilots and break into the once public school-dominated officer class. Of the 50,000 boys trained as apprentices, 17 won the Sword of Honour at Cranwell and more than 1,200 were commissioned.

*Halton Boys* by Sean Feast ([grubstreet.co.uk](http://grubstreet.co.uk)) is the story of Halton told through and by the boys who were there.

We have copies to give away. For your chance to win one, simply send us the correct answer to this question:

**How many Trenchard Brats won the Sword of Honour at Cranwell?**

Email your answer, marked Halton Boys competition, to: [competitions@rafnews.co.uk](mailto:competitions@rafnews.co.uk) or post it to: RAF News, Room 68, Lancaster Building, HQ Air Command, High Wycombe, HP14 4UE, to arrive by November 13.

**T**HE FIRST volume of *Fleet Air Arm Boys* by Steve Bond ([grubstreet.co.uk](http://grubstreet.co.uk)) looks chronologically at every aircraft type flown in an air defence role since 1945. Involvement in conflicts including Korea, Suez, the Falklands, Bosnia and elsewhere is included.

The RAF's continuing role in the projection of air power in the defence of the UK and its overseas interests since the end of World War II is well known. But the same cannot always be said about the Royal Navy's Fleet Air Arm (FAA), partly due to the 10-year gap between the Harrier's retirement and the arrival of the F-35B and the Queen Elizabeth-class aircraft carriers.

The book tells the FAA's story through the words of those air and ground crews who have been part of it since 1945.

To be in with a chance of winning a copy, just answer this question correctly:

**What does FAA stand for?**

Email your answer, marked Fleet Air Arm Boys competition, to: [competitions@rafnews.co.uk](mailto:competitions@rafnews.co.uk) or post it to our usual address to arrive by November 13.



**BEAR NECESSITIES:** Festival features the film *Bare Existence*, about endangered polar bears



## Top honour as collegiate continues to improve offering for boarding students

STAFF and students at Queen Ethelburga's Collegiate (QE) are celebrating following the news that the school has been recognised by the UK Boarding Schools Association Awards as a Finalist for their work to continually improve their offer for boarding students, to better meet their needs.

The Collegiate has also been announced as a Finalist for its approach to supporting international students as they become part of the QE community.

QE welcomes girls and boys from three months and supports them through four schools – Chapter House (three months to Year 5), King's Magna (Years 6 to 9), The College and Faculty (both Year 10 to 13), with those wishing to board being able to do so from Year 3.

Set in 220 acres of picturesque North Yorkshire countryside, the Collegiate provides a safe and happy community environment for its 850 boarders. Weekends



are as busy on campus as during the week, with a wide range of sporting, creative and performing arts, cultural and outdoor activities on offer. Boarding houses also host a varied programme of activities, encouraging students to socialise and follow their individual interests.

Known locally, nationally and internationally as a place that promotes the highest standards in all that it does, the Collegiate's exam results consistently rank it amongst the top ten day and boarding schools in the UK. In 2020, students in the academically focused College achieved 97 per cent A\*/B at A level and 100 per cent D\*/D in the small number of BTECs taken to enrich the

A level programmes (equivalent in university points to A\* and A grades at A level). The Faculty, which offers a wider range of academic, creative and vocational courses, achieved 96 per cent A\*/B at A level and 86 per cent D\*/D in BTECs.

The Collegiate has risen to the challenge of starting the new school year during the current COVID-19 pandemic, gaining the COVID Safe BSA Charter and providing boarders with the option of a two week pre-term stay for students to become accustomed to the changes put in place to ensure their safety, prepare for the school year ahead and complete any quarantine period that might be necessary.

Principal Jeff Smith explains: "QE has complied with, and gone beyond, the measures required by the Government and we have committed ourselves to the BSA School Safe Charter, putting adaptable plans in place for this coming year and beyond.

"We will continue to find ways to broaden and improve the curriculum and enrichment opportunities we offer and continue to extend students' learning beyond the classroom. We will use our recent online teaching experience to update our IT strategy, taking the opportunity to develop e-learning in an impactful way.

"Through our academic, pastoral and enrichment programmes, we will continue to develop the personal qualities of our students, such as leadership, resilience, critical thinking and responsibility. As always, we will prioritise the safeguarding, health and wellbeing of all our students and staff."

**\* To note: At the time of writing, the BSA Awards 2020 ceremony had not yet taken place. To find out more about QE and to arrange a socially distanced private tour of campus, please visit [www.qe.org](http://www.qe.org)**




**BROMSGROVE SCHOOL**  
Founded 1553

FLAIR  
DISCIPLINE  
ACADEMIC RIGOUR



## Nurturing a love of learning

At Bromsgrove all pupils, regardless of their age, develop natural curiosity and a love of learning in a safe yet stimulating setting.

The Preparatory and Senior Schools provide continuity of education for children from the age of seven to eighteen years.

Having the advantage of beautiful grounds spread over 100 acres, with gardens, wildlife areas, forest school and extensive outdoor sports pitches, Bromsgrove's boarders have plenty of space around them.

A boarding community of over 580 youngsters, aged 7 to 18, live in comfortable houses, looked after by dedicated houseparents and a wide range

of professionals from nurses to caterers, all offering the most caring pastoral support. This gives just a flavour of what makes a Bromsgrove pupil so successful in their future careers.

Pupils start at the Prep School at age 7, many progressing from the School's own Pre-Preparatory School.

At Prep School academic and extra-curricular horizons naturally wide; the curriculum is broad and enriching and the opportunities for sport and extra-curricular activities are extensive.

With national level sports teams, award winning choirs and musicians, and multiple individual honours, whatever your child shows a talent or interest in we aim develop

them to their full potential.

Senior School is where pupils become more independent in their learning both in and out of the classroom.

The activities programme encourages them to take on responsibilities and to develop more skills whether that's in programming robots, taking part in music and drama, CCF and kitcar teams or editing the award winning pupil magazine there is something for everyone.

**\*To find out more information on how to join Bromsgrove School, and about our generous forces bursaries, don't hesitate to contact our admissions team who will be happy to help.**

**One of the UK's leading day and boarding schools**

Small classes and inspirational teaching.

Set in a good central England location, easy to reach from all corners of the country.

Exceptional results at A level, IB Diploma and GCSE.

A strong House and tutor system to look after your child's pastoral and academic wellbeing.

An outstanding range of extra-curricular activities.

**[admissions@bromsgrove-school.co.uk](mailto:admissions@bromsgrove-school.co.uk)**  
**[bromsgrove-school.co.uk](http://bromsgrove-school.co.uk)**

**A FLOURISHING BOARDING COMMUNITY**

Over 560 boarders:  
85 prep boarders  
and  
480 senior boarders

Please contact  
Admissions for  
details  
**01527 579679**

Co-educational, Day and Boarding  
990 pupils aged 13-18  
720 pupils aged 3 - 13  
560 boarders from the age of 7+





# WE ARE EXCELLENT. WE ARE QE.

**The Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI) has found Queen Ethelburga's Collegiate to be 'Excellent' across all schools, praising our pupils' outstanding academic achievements and personal development.**

Queen Ethelburga's has a long-standing relationship with the British Forces, welcoming students from military families for over 100 years. We currently have over 300 such students living as part of the QE family.

We welcome day students from 3 months to 19 years and boarders from 6 years to 19 years. We are CEA accredited and in recognition of our commitment to Forces families, we offer a significant reduction in fees. In 2019/20 this meant that our Forces families paid just 10% of fees. In 2020/21 Forces families will pay just £955 per term, per child (with the benefits of Childcare Vouchers this figure can be as low as £614 per term).

We pride ourselves on our wrap-around specialist pastoral care for our students, providing a secure and supportive home from home. We are focused on creating the right learning and living environment so that every one of them can thrive.

For further information or to arrange a visit contact our admissions team on  
01423 33 33 33 Email: [admissions@qe.org](mailto:admissions@qe.org)

**Thorpe Underwood Hall, Ouseburn, York, YO26 9SS | [www.qe.org](http://www.qe.org)**



By Tracey Allen

Air Cadets **Feature**

# Helping young people get a flying start in life

## New RAF Cadets chief on his role inspiring the next generation

**L**IFE-CHANGING moments' and 'the best possible start in life' are what's on offer to youngsters who join the RAF Air Cadets, says its new head.

Air Cdre Tony Keeling said: "There are many societal and personal benefits to being in the air cadets. We aim to help our young people realise the potential that is in all of them."

"When some of our cadets, particularly youngsters from inner cities, get the chance to go flying, it's a life-changing moment."

He revealed that he had personal experience of such an opportunity, which inspired him to choose an RAF career.

He said: "I was a cadet in the early 80s with 145 (Altrincham & Hale) Squadron. On a summer camp to Church Fenton, I was working alongside a technician on a Jet Provost repairing an undercarriage fault."

"We fixed it, got the aircraft working and I saw it go flying which, as a 14-year-old, was the most amazing thing I had been involved with."

He joined the RAF as an apprentice in 1987, aged 17, and trained as an airframe and propulsion technician, spending the next five years working on Tornado GR1s. He then studied for a degree at the Royal Military College of Sciences and was commissioned as an engineering officer in 1999.

Within the last three to four years, around 37 per cent of officers and 21 per cent of other ranks and non-commissioned aircrew started their journey with the cadets, he said.

Air Cdre Keeling took up his new post last month. Leading a nationwide youth organisation that thrives on outdoor activities is bound to present particular challenges during the coronavirus pandemic.

"The cadets ceased face-to-face activity at the start of lockdown in March, in community settings with the Air Training Corps and in schools with the Combined Cadet Force (CCF)," he explained.

"We have brilliant volunteers who have amazing digital skills so we were quickly able to move a whole chunk of how the organisation



**HIGH-FLYER:** Cadet takes to the skies



**LEARNING:** There's a chance to map out a great future – maybe in the RAF



**ROYAL PATRON:** Meeting Hon Air Commandant of the Air Cadets Catherine, Duchess of Cambridge

Cadets are aged 12 to 20. Air Cdre Keeling explained: "We currently have around 33,000 in the community setting. We have a strong ambition to increase the number of young people in uniformed cadet organisations because of the societal and personal benefits that come from that."

"We're not short of cadets knocking on our door to join us and we are a very diverse organisation. In some of our inner city units in London membership is more than 90 per cent BAME [Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic]. Our overall membership is around 33 per cent female, but I'm sure we can improve on that."

The organisation has around 15,000 adult volunteers nationwide.

Air Cdre Keeling said: "Our success is predicated on having a really good body of volunteers. Without them, and their gift of time and experience, the offer for the cadets just does not come to life."

"Delivering our activities safely and, of course, safeguarding our cadets, is our primary focus, along with keeping on top of the syllabus. We need to make sure it is as relevant, inspiring and exciting as it can be."

"We are among the best in terms of our STEM [Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths] offer – that's really important in bringing GCSE and A-level studies to life and we are

sharply focused on it, especially given the rapid developments we are seeing in the RAF in Space and Cyber, and through ASTRA. Cadets also learn leadership skills and good citizenship, giving them the best possible start in life."

Current research by the University of Northampton into the benefits of being a uniformed cadet shows that taking part in cadet activities improves youngsters' attendance at school, which means they have an improved chance of attaining good qualifications, the Air Cdre added.

"We offer life-changing experiences for young people that can take them in many directions. The RAF Air Cadets is the world's best aviation-focused youth organisation," he said.



**F-35 VISIT:** Cadets on trip to Texas

does its business online. We have been seeing virtual parade nights and we are now able to deliver most of our academic syllabus online.

"We have made good progress in returning to face to face delivery with the CCF and in schools. In the community, with the Air Training Corps, cadets are also starting to return."

"We are doing things really carefully and sensibly, with firm guidelines for people to follow in line with National Youth Agency policy."

He added: "The cadets are itching to get back, catch up with their fellow cadets and carry on with their curriculum on a more face to face basis."

"We're beginning to

see some small, very carefully-delivered road marching and day-long adventurous training. At the last count we had around 300 of our 1,142 units back – the majority of those in the school setting."

"They have missed out this summer with all Blue Camps cancelled, so we're planning for success next year."

"It would be sensible for us not to think about doing things at scale until after Easter, but we need to start thinking now about how we go back into our national events; sports, drill, music, air experience flying."

"While we are dealing with the day to day and the ever-moving policy around Covid we also have one eye on the future."

"We need to make sure that next year – our 80th anniversary – is a really good one."



**CHIEF:** Air Cdre Keeling



Flt Lt Gordon Mackie DFC

Obituary



1942: Gordon Mackie in a Stirling bomber. He went on to be awarded the DFC



TEAMWORK: Mackie, second right, with his Stirling crew. It took seven men, including two pilots, to operate the heavy bomber

**S**COTTISH-BORN Gordon Mackie was a 19-year-old art student when he joined the RAF in 1940 to train as a pilot.

Initially he flew Wellington bombers, but in June 1941 he arrived at RAF Wyton, near Huntingdon, to join 15 Squadron, which had recently been re-equipped with the Stirling, the RAF's first four-engine heavy bomber.

The seven-man crew included two pilots and Mackie flew his first bombing operations as a second pilot before he was given command of his own crew.

Later in 1941 Lady MacRobert, the widow of a Scottish land owner and cattle breeder, made a donation of £25,000 to purchase a bomber in memory of her three sons who had all been killed serving in the RAF. When she presented the Stirling – named *MacRobert's Reply* – to 15 Squadron she included a letter in which she wrote: "I know you will always strike hard, sharp and straight to the mark. That is the language the enemy understands. My thoughts and thousands of other mothers are with you." As a proud Scot, Mackie found the donation very poignant.

**D**uring his time on 15 Squadron he bombed industrial targets in Germany and, in December 1941, attacked the German battleships *Scharnhorst* and *Gneisenau* in Brest. He also dropped mines in approaches to enemy-held ports and in the Baltic. In the eight months he was at RAF Wyton, 20 Stirlings were lost on operations.

In February 1942 Mackie joined a bomber training unit instructing new crews to fly the Stirling, a job

# Scot survived 44 Stirling missions and went on to reach age of 100

some thought was more hazardous than flying on operations.

Occasionally, the training units were used to supplement the main bomber squadrons and Mackie flew with a student crew on the first 'Thousand Bomber' raid, when the target was Cologne on the night of May 30-31, 1942.

Two months later, again with a student crew, he took off to bomb Hamburg. Of the eight crews sent on the operation, four were lost. The weather was atrocious and Mackie was forced to fly in cloud for over five hours with ice building up on the aircraft's control surfaces. He remembered it as his most frightening experience.

**I**n October 1943 he returned to operations to fly the Stirling with 214 Squadron, which soon re-equipped with the American-built B-17 Flying Fortress bomber. A fellow pilot on the squadron, who became a close friend, described Mackie as: "A small, dark-haired Scot of serious mien and fiery temper."

He went on to say: "When I got to know him better, I found a tremendous store of humour and warmth that lay in him below the surface." He also commented that Mackie was recognised as a first class pilot who, "maintained an iron discipline in the air."

The squadron's task was to fly

radio and radar countermeasure sorties to confuse the enemy air defence control and reporting system during a major bombing raid.

By October 1944, Mackie had flown 44 operations against the enemy and later in the year he was awarded the DFC.

He returned to instructing on the Stirling before joining 46 Squadron in February 1945. He was flying a later version of the aircraft, which had been modified as a transport aircraft, and he flew routes that took him as far afield as south-east Asia. He left the RAF as a Flight Lieutenant in 1946 to resume his art studies.

Many years after the end of hostilities, Mackie commented: "I gave the war little thought for many years. With months of service in the frontline, I didn't see a single dead body."

"Nor was I aware of the enormity of Europe's tragedy. I looked down on the burning cities and saw them, with their defences, only as threats to my own survival."

Gordon Mackie returned to art college and he became a celebrated book designer and illustrator of fine tomes, working mainly with Edinburgh University Press – whose publications came to be recognised all over the world. He died on October 3 aged 100.



# FORD FOCUS ST



**SIERRA. ALPHA. VICTOR. ECHO.**

**We're proud to offer current and former military personnel  
savings on selected vehicles.†**

**Search: Ford Military Sales**



**†Selected vehicles only. Eligibility criteria applies. See [ford.co.uk/militarysales](https://ford.co.uk/militarysales) for more information.**

Model shown is a Focus ST-3 5-Door 2.3L Ford EcoBoost 280PS with a 6-Speed Manual Petrol transmission with optional Full LED Headlamps. Fuel economy mpg (l/100km): Combined 35.8 (7.9). CO<sub>2</sub> emissions 187g/km.

Figures shown are for comparability purposes; only compare fuel consumption and CO<sub>2</sub> figures with other cars tested to the same technical procedures. These figures may not reflect real-life driving results, which will depend upon a number of factors including the accessories fitted, variations in weather, driving styles and vehicle load.



Air Cdre Ken Goodwin CBE AFC

Obituary

# Aerobatic ace who thrilled crowds and also wound up the odd senior officer

**A**IR COMMODORE Ken Goodwin, who has died aged 92, was one of the RAF's most charismatic Cold War fighter pilots whose brilliant solo aerobatic displays attracted widespread acclaim across Europe.

He joined the RAF in 1946 at a time when there was no demand for new pilots, so he trained as an airframe fitter. Finally, in July 1949, he was commissioned and began his training as a pilot. After gaining his wings he joined 92 Squadron at RAF Linton-on-Ouse, which was equipped with the Meteor fighter. He was soon selected to be the squadron's solo aerobatic pilot.

In July 1955 he left for Germany to join 118 Squadron, based at Jever in the north, where the squadron flew the Hawker Hunter. He developed a six-minute individual display of aerobatics, which consisted of a roll immediately after take-off and straight into a loop. After a series of turns and rolls he made a high-speed inverted flypast and climb and, after a hesitation roll, he made an inverted approach before landing.

Goodwin commented: "All in all, it was fairly spectacular by the time I finished." He added modestly: "At least I am told it was – naturally, I've never seen it myself."

His skill resulted in his selection as the official aerobatic pilot for the whole of the Second Tactical Air Force in Germany. Over the next two years he performed at displays across Europe, where he was heralded as a brilliant pilot in the many newspaper articles describing his exploits.

After two years with 118 Squadron, he was awarded the AFC in recognition of his achievements, and the widespread publicity for the RAF it had attracted across Europe.

Goodwin returned from Germany at the end of 1957, having been assessed as an exceptional fighter pilot, and joined the Central Fighter Establishment (CFE). He and his fellow pilots devised tactics and

evaluated a range of fighters. When the Lightning entered service at the end of 1959, the pilots of CFE were the first to fly the new aircraft, assess its characteristics, and devise a training plan for pilots destined to join squadrons.

Goodwin was appointed to the Lightning Conversion Unit. Initially, there were no dual-control versions of the supersonic fighter so pilots making their first flight were 'chased' by Goodwin and his fellow instructors.

“Don't worry about a thing”

In July 1962 the two-seat aircraft had arrived and was much in demand to fly senior officers and celebrities anxious to join the Thousand Miles Per Hour Club.

He developed a solo aerobatic routine in the Lightning. After a 10-minute display in front of 140,000 people at RAF Middleton St George, near Darlington, *The Northern Echo* reported: "The crowd gasped and gasped again with admiration as they were treated to the display of their lives."

Following a period in Bangkok, and at the HQ of the Far East Air Force in Singapore, Goodwin assumed command of 74 (Tiger) Squadron at RAF Leuchers in Fife. Flying from their Scottish base, the squadron's Lightnings regularly intercepted Russian aircraft flying near UK airspace.

Goodwin's high spirits, humour and occasional irreverence often brought him into conflict with his



**CAREFREE:** Ken Goodwin's high spirits sometimes got him in a spot of bother with the CO

senior officers. On one occasion, during an exercise in Cyprus, the RAF Station Commander complained about the noise of the aircraft. A few days later, Goodwin and his officers were at a local party to celebrate Christmas when one

of his pilots gave an impromptu flying display. His finale, a rocket-like climb, could be heard across the island. Goodwin, in full dress uniform, was summoned to see the Station Commander, but his 'guardian angel' stepped in to save

the day. The commander-in-chief, an Army general, was attending a nearby party and had seen the performance; he immediately contacted the RAF commander congratulating him on the 'bloody good show from the RAF'.

**I**n May 1967, 74 Squadron was re-assigned to RAF Tengah in Singapore. On June 4, Goodwin led the first section. Over the next few days all 13 aircraft flew via staging posts in Cyprus, Oman, the Indian Ocean and Malaysia, in company with Victor air-to-air refuelling tankers, to arrive in Singapore where it provided air defence for the region.

After two successful, and boisterous years, Goodwin left the squadron in March 1969. At his farewell dinner, he was presented with a beer tankard with an inscription of his trademark catchphrase, 'Don't Worry About a Thing.'

In 1972, he was appointed to command RAF Wattisham in Suffolk, the home of two Lightning squadrons. He was hugely popular with the officers and airmen and he remained fully current as a fighter pilot.

Following appointments at RAF Strike Command and as Air Adviser in Ottawa, he became the Deputy Captain of the Queen's Flight. His final appointment was as Air Officer Commanding Air Cadets, a period he enjoyed immensely. He was appointed CBE.

After retiring in July 1982 he was the commander of the South-West region of the Air Training Corps, when he continued to fly cadets and to visit the many squadrons in the region.

Goodwin was a great motivator and an excellent mentor, ensuring that his charges made the very best of their abilities. He was able to imbue future generations of air-minded boys and girls with the enthusiasm and precision that had so characterised his career.

He is survived by a daughter and a son – a former RAF Tornado pilot.





## THE NEW WAY TO CONTACT YOUR MEDICAL CENTRE

### FOR ADVICE ON:

- SYMPTOMS, CONDITIONS OR TREATMENT
- REPEAT PRESCRIPTIONS
- MEDICALS
- LIGHT DUTIES CHITS
- TEST RESULTS

### TO GET STARTED:

1. GO TO ECONSULT AND FIND YOUR MEDICAL CENTRE
2. FIND YOUR SYMPTOM, CONDITION OR REQUEST
3. FILL OUT A QUICK FORM
4. YOUR PRACTICE RESPONDS WITH ADVICE, A PRESCRIPTION OR AN APPOINTMENT





# Smooth operator

**XE is the driver's car with a refined touch**



**DIALS:** Sleek and stylish, as you'd expect



**JAGUAR XE:** A Brit of all right

**TIM MORRIS**  
Motoring  
Correspondent



**T**ALK TO your dad or your grandad and they'll tell you of a time when cars were (at least largely) hand built. Ah, the golden days of perfection you might think, but that wasn't always the case. Ask the old boy if he's ever bought a 'Friday car' and you'll almost certainly get a look heavenwards and resounding 'yes'.

Precision brands that made only a few cars every year would come back and finish putting one together on Monday morning rather than rushing the job but large-scale manufacturers such as Austin would see workers throwing parts together in a hell of a hurry on Friday morning to get down the pub in good time. The aim of switching production to machine-built vehicles was to ensure uniform quality at all times and eliminate the 'Friday Car'. That and the fact that it was an awful lot cheaper.

Jaguar had a decision to make and, wanting to maintain its reputation as a luxury sporting brand, tried to strike a balance that kept many of its craftsmen on the line. So Jags weren't always known for their reliability but they had more style and charisma than almost anything else on the road.

To image-conscious buyers this mattered.

To explain why let's put it another way. Omega watches, like Jags, are beautiful to look at but they don't tell the time any better than a cheaply-moulded Casio. The question is whether you would want to flaunt the Casio.

## Styling

It's often said that the XE is Jag's answer to the Ford Mondeo but its designers have pulled out all the stops to make sure that the 2020 model is something far more impressive. The latest incarnation is a British executive saloon that has been designed to do battle with the Mercedes C Class, the Audi A4 and the BMW 3 Series.



It's a tough mission but on the outside it certainly looks up to the challenge. The thin LED lights, reshaped bumpers and a sporty lip spoiler help to give the Jag an aggressive, sporty stance that makes it stand out. Add the 20in, 10-spoke alloy wheels (above) and you end up with a car that's really quite beautiful.

## Inside

The XE's interior is just as nice to look at and it's a wonderfully comfortable place to be if you're a front seat passenger. There's bags of adjustment on the seats/wheel and with everything set low the XE

## Jaguar XE

### Pros

- Agile handling and a genuinely enjoyable drive
- Real character, inside & out
- Generous kit list
- Great high-speed refinement

### Cons

- Tight rear-seat/boot space
- Untested new tech
- Clunky start-stop system
- Engine note could be sportier

### Verdict

Priced from £45,835, the Jaguar XE is wonderful to drive and well equipped. If you're focused on solid build quality and practicality you're unlikely to be swayed from the 3 Series but if you want a saloon that's a real driver's car this is the best in the class. Incredibly, it even outshines the Alfa Giulia thanks to its uncanny ability to maintain a supple ride even when you're hurling it mercilessly through corners. There's not a lot of rear legroom and no longer a V6 in the range but it's sleek styling and impressive on-board tech makes the updated XE a cracking sports saloon. It's a real driver's car, above all else.

feels phenomenally sporty. Rear leg room is nowhere near good enough to take on its rivals but that's all part of being a Jag. Sporty, sleek, fast and with a bonnet that could span counties, Jags have always

been more about having long legs than fat cat rear comfort. It's a driver's car.

There's a raft of new technology on board that's borrowed from the I-Pace. The two-level touch screens are sharp, respond well and give the XE an expensive feel. The interior looks even better in the dark, with well-placed mood lighting and nicely animated displays. The rear view mirror doubles as a small monitor that gives an unobstructed view of what's happening behind.

## On The Road

Our test car was the XE HSE R-Dynamic 2.0 300ps Petrol AWD Auto – now there's a mouthful. The P300 comes exclusively with four-wheel drive so there's no rear wheel drive option unless you plump for one of the lower-powered variants. An 8-speed automatic gearbox comes as standard on all XEs and this is especially slick during more sedate driving. I'd have preferred a snappier change from the auto box in 'Sport' but it's so much fun to drive with the aluminium paddle shifts that you'll probably want to spend most of the time driving in manual mode anyway. With Jag's precise All Wheel Drive (AWD) system completing the package it's a good match for an A4 Quattro in the wet too.

0-60mph is achieved in 5.4 seconds with a limited top end of 155mph courtesy of its Ingenium 4 cylinder, Turbocharged engine. It doesn't have the sound of the V6s found in some rivals but it's refined and provides all the go you'll need to blast around winding open



**TOP GEAR:** Shift stick and centre console

roads. Combined fuel consumption weighs in at 33.6mpg.

Our car came equipped with the optional 20in alloys and adaptive shock absorbers. This is a package that complements the car's perfectly-balanced chassis. The result is a superb blend of ride and handling that easily outshines C-Class and 3 Series rivals. It holds the road really well, even in the wet, and stays flat through undulating bends. Even the big alloys don't ruin its sophisticated ride, which is pretty unusual.

Wind and road noise are never intrusive, even at higher speeds. The engine is refined and settles down to an almost silent hum when the car drops into 8<sup>th</sup>, delivering almost XJ levels of comfort. It's good, really good and I struggled to fault it. If I had to pick one gripe however it would be that the XE's stop/start system is a bit intrusive when the engine restarts in traffic.





Leading technology for the  
UK's security and economy

# Tempest – innovation for the next generation

[baesystems.com/tempest](https://baesystems.com/tempest)

**BAE SYSTEMS**



Email: [sports@rafnews.co.uk](mailto:sports@rafnews.co.uk)  
Telephone: 07966 429755**Sport**5 pages of **RAF Sport** start here● **Carp men seize the day: P30-31** ● **Covid scuppers cup dream: P31** ● **Pandemic wipes out Alpine sports and Kentish Cup: P28****CYCLING**

# Willcocks powers to Vets TT second

## RAF man Rob goes close on testing course

**SERVICE ROAD** racer Flt Lt Rob Willcocks produced a close-run second place at the tough Northover Vets Time Trial.

The race, that also hosted the Royal Navy Championship, was held on a challenging course of hilly, narrow backroads. The 21-mile ride through Taunton, Somerset, left entrants with an initial question – to use time trial or road race bikes?

A field of 20 Royal Navy riders competing for their male and female titles made up the bulk of the field, with the remaining spots taken by civilians and other military riders. Forty-five cyclists took to the start line at one-minute intervals in dry, sunny but blustery conditions.

Starting from Bishop Lydeard, riders then had to climb more than 1,000ft in the first five miles, before navigating the technical six-mile descent through Ford to Wiveliscombe and then on to the finish at Cotford St Luke.

Velo Sport's Dean Robson, from Jersey, won the

open Time Trial event in 37 minutes and 29 seconds, with the RAF Cycling Association's Willcocks battling hard for second in 38 minutes and 30 seconds. The podium was completed by the Royal Navy's Tom Scorer in 39 minutes and 18 seconds. The women's event was won by Newport Phoenix's Rebecca Comins and fastest road bike was awarded to Aled Jones from the Royal Navy, with 39 minutes and 21 seconds.

Willcocks said: "Unfortunately, due to road works, the course had to be shortened by a few miles, but this had no effect on the challenge ahead for riders.

"It was a really well organised event. With so few sports able to return to competition, cycling is one that the privileged few can participate in. The individual nature of time trial competition lends its hand to socially-distanced sport, but not without the dedicated hard work and organisation of events by volunteers."

To find out more about taking part in RAF Cycling search RAF Cycling Association on Facebook or @RAFCycling on Twitter.



**FULL OUT:** Flt Lt Willcocks hits the road at pace

PHOTOS: DAVID PICKERING



## Sport

### ALPINE SPORTS

# Pandemic halts IS winter sports 2021

Annual event is biggest loss to Service so far

**Daniel Abrahams**

HQ Air Command

IT'S THE biggest military sporting event of the calendar to so far have fallen foul of the coronavirus pandemic, as the 2021 Inter-Service Snow Sports Championship has been cancelled.

News of the axed event, which is normally held in March at the Meribel resort, came this week. Single service events, held during the run-up to Meribel, have also been cancelled, as have the UKAF champs which close out the alpine season.

The Service had said all overseas sports trips are 'not being considered', while the Army has now cancelled its entire winter sports calendar, along with the Royal Navy. The week-long IS event features three disciplines – skiing, snowboarding and telemark – with training camps held in the week prior to it.

Snowboard association chairman Wg Cdr Nicola Duncan said: "I think the only word to describe the season being cancelled is gutting. Whilst we all know it had to be done, it does not make it any easier to swallow."

"As with everything, there is nothing to do but pick yourself up and look at ways to train."



**TEAM TOGETHER:** Above, the women's ski team at last year's opening ceremony; top right, the snowboarders show their skills last time out; below right, the telemark team have grown in stature at each IS

As the newest of the three disciplines, the telemark association has benefitted from training and taster camps at the previous four championships. Telemark team captain Sqn Ldr Jonny Young said: "It's a big disappointment to lose the main events for this season. The team are hoping to make the best of things. We will train hard in the gym and use indoor slopes in the UK as much as possible now."

SAC(T) Barnaby Rudge, men's ski team captain, added: "Of course it's tough that there won't be any

ski champs or inters this year, but the first priority is the safety of everyone and obviously with the current situation cancelling was the best option. All three Services are in the same boat, so we are all looking to 2021-22 to get things back on track and out on proper snow.

"Despite the cancellations the RAF ski team and RAFWSAA are looking to run training camps and maybe more here in the UK, if it's safe to do so."

Follow RAF winter sports on Twitter @RAFwintersport.



### FOOTBALL



**CUP A HOOP:** The UKAF team celebrate winning the Kentish Cup for a fourth time in December last year; inset right, Pierce points the way  
PHOTO: SAC CONNOR TIERNEY ACSSU

## Covid cuts Cup dreams short

UKAF FOOTBALLERS will have to wait a little bit longer to defend the Kentish Cup, after the tournament was cancelled due to the Covid-19 crisis.

Planned to be held in Portsmouth later this month, the event would have seen the UKAF team, led by new manager FS Dyfan Pierce, defend the cup for the fifth time in a row. Current travel restrictions now mean the Dutch and French teams cannot fulfil the fixtures.

Pierce, who took over the team in March, said: "It's been a crazy eight months,

we saw our first fixture cancelled against the Irish Defence Forces in May, but we wanted UKAF football and to defend the cup.

"We've know this might happen, but tried to do things properly and give it the best chance of taking place."

"Once travel was hit, it was only fair to give the French and the Dutch every chance to attend, but they couldn't, so it had to be cancelled."

"We now look towards the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the tournament in 2021, at which we had hoped to play at the pre-

European Championship event in the spring, but it may revert back to an autumn tournament."

Speaking about kickstarting football across the Services, Pierce added: "We have not had sport to decompress across the Services."

"It has been very tough not to keep proving ourselves, we have had a great six years with UKAF and we wanted to keep momentum going, that's key in football."

"We lost out on some vital matches during the summer, but have kept in constant contact with all players and staff."

"What we really need is to have them playing at Service and station level."

"The next few months will be key to get the Inter-Services over the line, then we can begin to look at picking players for UKAF level."

"This gets things up and running properly, as we know the players all want to wear that international badge and play at the highest level."

Follow UKAFFC on Twitter @UKArmedForcesFA.



## MOTORSPORT



# Dynamic duo in Donny blitz

Tough-talking pair as good as their word

**Staff Reporter**  
Donington Park

**THEY MADE promises after the last British Superbike Championship round and RAF team duo Jack Kennedy and Ryan Vickers kept their word, producing strong results at Donington Park.**

Three top-10 finishes and a pole position wiped away any memories of the previous round at Oulton Park, where the pair finished with a single point.

Kennedy said: "I really enjoyed

myself and my pace saw me on pole position for the second race, which was a very nice feeling. I got away clean and felt good sitting with the front pack.

"I really wanted three top-10s, but the hotter pace in race three meant I wasn't able to manage that, which was a shame.

"Overall, it's been a good weekend so, hopefully, I can make further progress in the next rounds at Brands Hatch."

Taking to the famous Leicestershire track in terrible conditions, for rounds 13, 14 and



**SPEED THRILLS:** Above, having vowed to return in style Kennedy stormed to two top 10 finishes; left, Vickers showed his class, but crashes cut short his impressive weekend  
PICTURES BY TIM KEETON - IMPACT IMAGES PHOTOGRAPHY

15 of the championship, the entire opening day of racing was lost due to bad weather. It meant that for the first time in the history of the series all three races would take place on the Sunday.

With both riders opting for intermediate tyres in the first race, Kennedy dropped back to 19th, while Vickers went the other way to fifth. Hitting fourth with three laps to go, he ended up back in fifth for his best ever BSB finish, while

Kennedy came in seventh. Kennedy, who was suffering from an arm injury from the previous round, then showed his speed from the off for the second race. He produced the fastest lap of the race from pole. Vickers settled well in ninth, then span off at the Melbourne Hairpin.

Kennedy dug in and secured another top-10 finish. Vickers suffered another first lap crash on the first corner of the final race, while Kennedy managed his injury

pain, suffered after a spin at Oulton, to come home in a solid 13th for three more championship points.

Vickers said: "It was a great weekend up until race two. The team worked really well, so much so that I got my best ever result in the Superbike class.

"I'm feeling confident with the work the team have done on the bike and I'm really looking forward now to the final round at Brands Hatch."



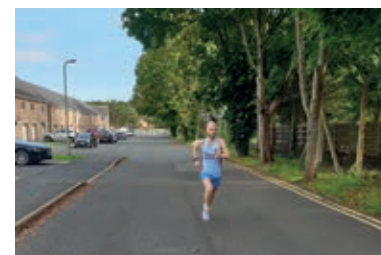
## Runners make the MK mark

THE RAF ran away with the semi-virtual staging of the Milton Keynes half marathon against the Army.

With the original running of the race – the Inter-Service half marathon – cancelled in March, association organisers plumped for the MK race as the perfect opportunity to hold the event, and the RAF made sure they took full advantage.

Winning in every discipline on the day, the Service dominated the men's, women's and veterans' categories.

The run was controlled under strict Covid-19 risk assessments, having been authorised by the Director of RAF Sport, with runners starting in small groups of four and six at 30-minute



intervals. The first senior men's group featured a quality line-up of RAF runners.

Fg Off Mike Kallenberg, above, Sgt James Bellward and FS Michael Taylor all set off at a five-minute mile pace, but steadied down after the initial push.

Kallenberg then pulled away after two miles, with Bellward drifting off slowly and Taylor not far behind.

It looked like Kallenberg would romp away with it, but navigational confusion saw him lose his lead.

He soon caught up with Taylor,

but finished behind Bellward, who came home one minute and a second faster.

Wg Cdr Ben Livesey led the second group from start to finish to win in one hour, 14 minutes and 11 seconds, with Cpl Jamie Arkle runner-up. The other RAF runner, Cpl Steve Robinson, retired.

The third group included WO Paul Vernon, Gp Capt Martin Higgins and Maj Adrian Whitman, with Vernon making up for an early navigational error to finish behind Whitman.

The final group saw the ladies head out, with the RAF runners SAC Vicci Williams, team manager Sqn Ldr Jo Roe and LAC Chloe Richardson seeing their Army opponents cut by two due to early retirement. Richardson produced an impressive run of one hour and 23 minutes, followed by Edwards in one hour and 36 minutes, with Roe third.



## ANGLING

# IS win a Disney fairy for RAF

Norton lakes scene of brilliant victory as Service storms to title

### STAFF REPORTER

Lincolnshire

**NORTON DISNEY fishing complex, Lincolnshire, was the setting for a fantastic RAF angling win in the 2020 Inter-Service Carp Championships.**

Despite a late flurry of action on day two, the Service's anglers had clear water between themselves and their Army and Royal Navy opponents to take the crown.

The multi-lake complex set up the match over two separate lakes, Pettitt's and Turner's, with the lowest-scoring points total winning the overall event [see tile below for points guide].

With both lakes divided into two sections, pairs from the three teams competed in each. Points were then awarded for the finishing positions per section.

The Army were drawn first and opted to fish peg three in each, with the RAF drawn second opting for peg two, leaving the Navy with peg one.

Weather played its part in producing a slow start with catches, and it was the Army who netted a 19lb mirror carp first on Turner's lake, with the Navy following with a 14lb catch.

As the sun began to set the first fish was landed on Pettitt's Lake, WO Richard Cooke in A Section hooked a 19lb 11oz mirror to finally put the RAF on the scoreboard.

This meant all teams were level on 16 points going in to the first evening. With all to play for the anglers settled down for a night of action.

It proved to be a frustratingly slow evening, with C Section on Turner's Lake the only area to see any catches. These were down to the Navy pair, who added a brace to put themselves on 62lb and take pole position.

As the match entered the halfway point, weather conditions,

namely wind, began to impact on the fishing. By mid-afternoon Sgt Martin Emery and Chf Tech Matthew Whittaker became the second pairing on Pettitt's to record catches, with an 18lb common putting them into a section lead. Emery then hooked a 22lb 5oz mirror just half an hour later.

In C Section the Army landed two fish in quick succession, for a combined weight of 29lb. This put them hot on the heels of the Navy pairing. The score update going into the final night showed the match was on a knife edge, with the RAF leading on 12 points, the Army on 13 and the Navy on 16.

WO Cooke and FS Matt Hunt were soon rewarded. Cooke landed a stunning 27lb 7oz mirror quickly followed by two further fish of 20lb and 26lb 12oz, to put them in to a commanding position. At first light FS Hunt then added a 19lb linear mirror to stretch their lead further.

Despite the catches, the total points score remained the same and the match was still in the balance, with three hours of competition remaining.

An hour later on peg C2, the RAF pairing of FS Jason Verney and Sgt Glenn Beardsall hooked a 12lb 12oz mirror carp.

Two minutes later they added another fish in the shape of a 16lb 10oz mirror for Verney. The catch, which took them ahead of the Army pairing by mere ounces in their section, extended the RAF's lead and started the celebrations. Pettitt's Lake was dominated by the RAF pairings, with none of the sister Service anglers able to register a catch.

A fine victory in A Section by Cooke and Hunt saw them land an impressive five fish to take home best overall pair and the biggest fish trophy.

In B Section, Chf Tech Whittaker and Sgt Emery landed two fish to win comfortably.

In C Section Verney and Beardsall came second behind the Navy.

Tough fishing throughout in D Section saw little reward for the RAF pairing of Chf Tech Ian Coleman and Sgt Stuart Thomson, with just one fish being landed by the Army to win it.



**CATCH OF THE DAY:** Top, evening draws on in the IS championship; above left, FS Hunt shows off a catch; above right, FS Emery looks proudly at his catch; below left, WO Cooke with a mighty catch



### Scoring system

First in section – one point  
Second in section – two pts  
Third in section – three pts  
No fish landed – five pts

Lowest total points scored determines the winner

### Final result:

RAF – nine points, Army – 14 pts, Royal Navy – 16 pts



# tale



championship carp; below, WO Cooke and FS Hunt



## GIVEAWAY

# Get into top gear with brilliant Formula 1 book competition **Win!**

**TRACK STARS:** Above, British F1 legend James Hunt celebrates winning in 1976, as Jody Scheckter left and Jochen Mass right hear of Nikki Lauda's infamous crash; above right, current World Champion Lewis Hamilton signs hats

PHOTOS: MOTORSPORT IMAGES COVER DESIGN: WELLBECK PUBLISHING

IF THE high-octane world of Formula One is your sport of choice, then our latest book competition is perfect for you.

We have teamed up with Wellbeck Publishing to offer five copies of Maurice Hamilton's *Formula 1, The Official History* to be won.

The hardback book features a foreword by former Benetton, Ferrari and Team Brawn technical director and team principal Ross Brawn. There are countless beautiful colour and black and white photographs featuring such icons of the sport as Juan Manuel Fangio, Sterling Moss, Ayrton Senna and Lewis Hamilton, and stunning race action from the sport's seven-decade history.

Hamilton does a brilliant job covering the sport from the 1950s to modern day. Worth an extra mention is the in-depth chapter on the Lotus years in the 1960s. The book and images allow for a trip down memory lane of the sport, featuring the ground-breaking car designs and ideas, to the tracks and even fashions of bygone race days.

The incredible technical advances the sport is known for are also investigated, with stunning illustrations bringing it all to life.

The book doesn't pull any punches when it comes to the harsh reality of safety issues that have dogged the sport either, covering the loss of life for some of its biggest names.

Stark photographs showing the mangled frames of smashed up, and at times burning vehicles, bring home the true price of living at such high speed.

In combating the safety issues which nearly destroyed the sport, Hamilton traces how the new approaches have seen the sport move further and further away from its fan base, resulting in current PR stunts such as getting drivers to sign merchandise as a form of interaction.

For a chance to win one of five copies of *Formula 1: The Official History* by Maurice Hamilton, simply answer the following question correctly:

**In what decade did Lotus rule F1?**

Email your answer, marked *F1 competition*, to: [sports@rafnews.co.uk](mailto:sports@rafnews.co.uk) or post it to our usual address (see page 3) to arrive by November 5.

Please remember to include your full postal address with all competition entries.

*Formula 1: The Official History* by Maurice Hamilton is priced £25 from Wellbeck Publishing. Follow Wellbeck publishing on Twitter @WellbeckPublish.



## Blue-riband final event postponed after Covid scare

THE RAF Football Association has been forced to postpone its blue-riband event – the RAF FA Cup final between Marham and Odiham – after what it called 'a Covid-19 related incident'.

The match was due to take place at Oxford City's Court Place Farm ground.

RAF FA spokesman Vince Williams said: "It was disappointing for all concerned that the RAF FA

had to postpone the 2019-20 RAF Cup final, however the safe return to football is our primary concern.

"It is imperative that all Covid-19 protocols are adhered to, at both station and association level. We are hoping to rearrange the game, possibly for the beginning of November."

The decision to postpone the fixture was taken after the Marham team went into self-isolation

following an issue with a player outside the first-team squad.

The move to self-isolate was made by RAF Marham's management team following its thrilling 5-4 semi-final win over Coningsby. The match, the first to be played in the Service since the lockdown, provided no little thrills.

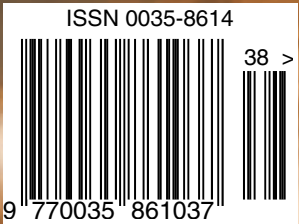
With Coningsby winning the previous fixture between the two 9-0, it was Marham's day this

time. They took an early lead, with Coningsby levelling shortly afterwards. Marham led 2-1 at the break and 3-1 within seconds of the restart. In a thrilling second 45, Coningsby saw a late penalty appeal which could have made it 5-5 turned down – so it stayed 5-4.

Odiham had been given a bye into the final, after its match with RAF Akrotiri was cancelled due to Covid travel restrictions.



# Over 100 years invested in the UK's future



E-SCAN RADAR ENSURES  
INFORMATION SUPERIORITY  
FOR BATTLESPACE DOMINANCE

PRAETORIAN DEFENSIVE AIDS  
SUB-SYSTEM (DASS) PROVIDES  
PROTECTION AGAINST AIR-TO-AIR  
AND SURFACE-TO-AIR THREAT

LEONARDO DESIGNS AND BUILDS  
OVER 60% OF THE EUROFIGHTER  
TYPHOON'S AVIONICS

Leonardo has over 100 years of history at the leading edge of advanced design and manufacturing in the UK.

Over 7,000 highly-skilled employees and a vast network of suppliers and partners design and develop industry-leading aircraft, electronics, space, defence and security systems for UK and export customers, worldwide.

**Inspired by the vision, curiosity and creativity of the great master inventor -  
Leonardo is designing the technology of tomorrow.**

[leonardocompany.com](http://leonardocompany.com)

Helicopters | Aeronautics | Electronics, Defence & Security Systems | Space

