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The Magazine of RAF Odiham **Issue 3 • 2020**

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For information visit www.barkingmad.uk.com



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Article Submissions

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Deadline date for the next issue:

15 Feb 21

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MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

The editor assumes article contributors are aware that the magazine has a wide distribution to both Service and Civilian communities and contributors are ultimately responsible for the vetting of their article submissions. The editor also assumes that the contributor has ensured that personnel included in the photographs they provide are aware and have no objection to these images being used in the magazine. Advice on content or preparation of future articles can be obtained by contacting the editor. To this end the Helicon editorial staff endeavour to ensure all articles are suitable for publication. The Helicon is the magazine of RAF Odiham and its intended audience is Station Personnel and their families. It is not an official document and the opinions expressed within it are not those of the MOD, the RAF or the editorial team.

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ON THE COVER

'A busy dispersal' –
SAC Charlotte Hopkins

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This publication was
designed and printed by
Lance Print Ltd

STATION COMMANDER'S FOREWORD

Gp Capt Knight

Welcome to the 2020 Issue 3 of RAF Odiham

My staycation summer now seems a distant memory and, on reaching the mid-point of lockdown 2.0, it is with a sense of déjà vu that I draft this foreword. A return to lockdown does however offer the perfect opportunity to reflect on what an extraordinary year 2020 has been. I recall excitedly drafting my first Helicon foreword over a year ago when COVID-19 was barely understood let alone part of everyday lexicon. Christmas also serves as a natural milestone to reflect. Indeed, it would appear that COVID has encouraged many to put up their decorations early to inject some long overdue joy into our lives! So, with the two Cs (Christmas and COVID) in mind, it is perhaps inevitable that I look back on what the third C (Chinook Force) has been up to over the last 12 months.

Firstly, may I start by saying a big 'thank you'. I have been both hugely impressed and humbled by the way in which you continue to apply yourselves, irrespective of the uncertainty or ambiguity that has become commonplace. The sense of community spirit is equally noteworthy: those serving, Contractors, Reservist or Service Families stand shoulder to shoulder in supporting each other through the challenges that COVID present. It is because of this continued application and unwavering sense of community that the Chinook Force hasn't missed a beat – we have maintained our overseas commitments in Africa and the Middle East, moved frontline NHS staffs around the country, completed life saving medevac missions in support of Op RESCRIPT and are deployed on exercise today in the United States. Put simply, the Chinook Force has been at the forefront of



Defence activity throughout one of the most challenging years in recent history.

I also believe that the 3 Cs combine to allow for a sense of renewed optimism. A pause in the current lockdown restrictions appears on the cards and will allow families to be reunited over Christmas. Newspaper headlines are filled with compelling statistics regarding the efficacy of COVID vaccines and the 40th Anniversary of Chinooks in RAF service (celebrated as I write this foreword) all reinforce why there is much to be positive about. Indeed, this festive edition of Helicon is packed with optimism and achievement – whether the article on Women in Engineering, Phyllis's 100th birthday, Cpl Boyle's placement with Starchaser, the Airfield Riding Day, participation in Ex CRIMSON WARRIOR or 18(B) Sqn's exploits in Mali, not to mention the excellent images courtesy of our Photography Team.

I very much hope you enjoy reading this edition, take time to reflect on the year's events and share my optimism as we look forward to 2021.

Once again thank you and I wish you all a very merry Christmas and happy and healthy New Year.

Editor's FOREWORD

Flying Officer Rosie Middleton

Welcome to 2020's final edition of The Helicon Magazine. As I collate the articles for this edition, it is once again a reminder of just how busy the Chinook Force and Team Odiham have been over the past few months.

The Chinook Force has just returned from Exercise Crimson Warrior which was the largest exercise to be run by the RAF in the UK for over a decade. Team Odiham have participated in worthwhile community projects such as supporting NHS Staff at Petersfield Community Hospital with creating a relaxing outdoor space for them and MT Control setting-up a food bank collection point and RAF Odiham personnel continue



operations out in Mali in support of the French on Operation Newcombe.

It has been a busy few months that hopefully we have captured in this edition of The Helicon.

Thank you to all of those who have contributed.

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RAF Odiham Supports Funeral of 27 Squadron WW2 Veteran

Warrant Officer James Kingham

RAF Odiham personnel were honoured to support the funeral of Warrant Officer James Kingham, who sadly died on 12 Sep 20, at the age of 97.

WO Kingham served on 27 Squadron during WW2. He flew as a navigator in Beaufighters until 1945, and remained in the Far East until 1946, tracking down missing Allied aircraft crashes across several countries. He was deeply proud of his time on 27 Sqn, which he joined under the command of James Nicholson VC DFC. Shortly after the capitulation of Japan, he was forced to make a fuel diversion into what turned out to be a Japanese-held airfield in Sumatra; the crew feared a rough treatment, but instead, at the break of dawn a Japanese NCO's katana was ceremonially surrendered to WO Kingham. Typically humble, that sword has sat in his wardrobe ever since.

WO Kingham returned to his beloved 27 Squadron as a special guest at the Squadron Centenary in 2015, at which he took great pleasure in giving a speech. He felt decades



younger, being surrounded once more by the Squadron he loved, and his grandson Flt Lt James Kingham, who was serving on 27 Squadron during the Centenary year.

A Chinook from 27 Squadron kindly conducted a flypast for the funeral as part of a training sortie in the area on 29 Sept. Master Aircrew Jim Fowler, 27 Squadron.



The 'human radar' which launched the Fund's Join the Search. Change a Life campaign at RAF Odiham.
RAF Benevolent Fund



RAF ODIHAM

wins National Charity Award for the second year running

RAF Odiham has been named the Station of the Year for the second year running at the annual RAF Benevolent Fund awards. The award recognises the Station which has gone above and beyond in support of the Fund, the RAF's leading welfare charity, both in terms of fundraising and raising awareness.

The ceremony, held virtually on Tuesday night, was attended by hundreds of RAF personnel and supporters of the Fund in a night which celebrates the achievements of those who support the RAF's leading welfare charity, from dedicated individuals and groups to RAF stations and corporate partners.

As well as countless fundraising activities, raising more than £12,000, and awareness raising events, RAF 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 an unforgettable launch which reached millions with the news coverage.

In addition to this, personnel on the station took part in a trial for a new welfare initiative and hosted the Fund's Trustees on an away day as well as providing a Christmas lunch for RAF veterans in the local community.

Group Captain Nick Knight, Station Commander at RAF Odiham, said: "We are thrilled that RAF Odiham has been recognised once again as the Benevolent Fund's Station of the Year – for the second year

running. The significance of support provided by the RAF Benevolent Fund cannot be understated – put simply, it makes a huge difference and the RAF Family at Odiham continues to be most grateful." The award was presented by Mike Mew, National Sales and Business Development Director UK at MBDA Missile Systems, who sponsored the category.

Air Vice-Marshal Chris Elliot, Controller of the RAF Benevolent Fund, 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."

"Huge congratulations to all of the winners, especially RAF Odiham who have been crowned Station of the Year for the second year running. We truly would not be able to do what we do without every single one of our supporters whether it be raising money or awareness, helping us to reach even more members of the RAF Family."

Now in its eighth year, the RAF Benevolent Fund Awards recognise the outstanding contributions of its supporters, personnel on stations and corporate partners who support the charity each year. The RAF Benevolent Fund is the RAF's leading welfare charity, supporting RAF personnel past and present.

If you know an RAF veteran in need, go to rafbf.org to find out how the Fund could help.

CHINOOK FORCE SUPPORTS
RAF REGIMENT ON

EXERCISE CRIMSON WARRIOR

Exercise Crimson Warrior is the largest military exercise to be run by the Royal Air Force in the United Kingdom for over a decade. The exercise saw the RAF, Royal Navy, United States Marine Corps and United States Air Force fast jets, multi-engine aircraft and helicopters operating from a number of RAF stations across the country.

A key part of Exercise Crimson Warrior was to test Joint Personnel Recovery (JPR). Throughout the Exercise RAF Regiment Gunners from 3 Force Protection Wing and 15 Squadron RAF Regiment as part of the Ground Extraction Force (GEF) have trained teams, practicing their skills in Joint Personnel Recovery, working alongside the Chinook Force to react to both deliberate and dynamic "downed aircrew" scenarios. The RAF Regiment was tested against the 5 phases of JPR (Report, Locate, Support, Recover and Re-integrate) whilst being fully integrated into the complex Air / Land environment, including Joint Terminal Attack Controllers and small Unmanned Air Systems to achieve their mission.

At its peak Crimson Warrior saw over 70 aircraft conducting high intensity tactical training together over the North Sea and North East of England. The exercise is a development of the regular

Cobra Warrior exercises, widely regarded as the most challenging training for aircrew and the final step for those seeking to qualify as Qualified Weapons Instructors (QWI), Qualified Multi-engine Tactics Instructors, QWI Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance and Qualified Space Instructors Course.

The expanded Crimson Warrior includes land based training scenarios for the Lightning stealth fighters and helicopters that will form the Carrier Strike Group Air Wing for next year's operational deployment of the aircraft carrier HMS Queen Elizabeth.

During Exercise Crimson Warrior, the Chinook Force conducted a range of training scenarios including troop movements and the aircrew have been tested in a dynamic and complex air environment. Integrating Fast Jets and ISR assets to recover isolated personnel within a contested environment is unique training for the Chinook Force.



Military Aid to Civil Authorities

RAF ODIHAM SUPPORTS URGENT PATIENT TRANSFERS FROM CHANNEL ISLANDS



RAF Odiham airfield has been on standby ready to support Capital Air Ambulance at a moment's notice maintaining the medical bridge for urgent patient transfers from the Channel Islands to mainland UK as part of an ongoing request for Military Aid to Civil Authorities (MACA).

Capital's King Air aircraft lands at RAF Odiham airfield and is met by a road ambulance to transfer the patients to University Hospital Southampton (UHS) for critical care.

The use of RAF Odiham is as an assured alternate airfield for use by Capital Air Ambulance who provide aeromedical evacuation services for the Channel Islands.

The MACA request was submitted by the Governments of Jersey and Guernsey to use RAF Odiham as the secondary airfield to Southampton Airport for medical evacuation movements.

Southampton Airport (SOU) is operating a limited schedule due to the contraction of air travel due to COVID-19 and therefore, any urgent aeromedical evacuations outside of the SOU opening

times requires a suitable airfield near to Southampton Hospital.

RAF Odiham has held 24/7 standby for urgent OOH transfers of patients from the Channel Islands since the beginning of COVID restrictions. The Station provides operational and technical support to the movement facilitating the transfer of the patients from the aircraft to land ambulance.

Whilst this is a simple task for RAF Odiham, the assurance of having a 24/7 landing location on mainland UK gives significant reassurance to the Governments and people of the Channel Islands.

RAF Odiham's assistance to the Channel Islands is part of the MOD's wider support to the Government's response to COVID-19.

Fg Off Rosie Middleton



Thoughts from Corporal Stefan Betancourt



Rising Above The Rest

Embedded in the Royal Air Force motto of "Rising Above the Rest" for a BAME person in the RAF, is not simply "rising above the rest".

In my RAF career, I have had to work that much harder to be on par with my social peers and to prove my worth and place within my social environment. For me, the motto truly means, "rising above and beyond the rest" in order to be considered on par with my peers.

Social scientists refer to my situation as having "a marked identity". I see it as a vital part of this journey called "life", embracing diversity and encouraging others to do so through education. This journey has led to me having a strong sense of self, fuelling my impetus to always achieve excellence and to stand up for my beliefs at all costs.

In the world today, it is vital that we celebrate individuality and uniqueness both within ourselves and others, for this is what makes our planet interesting and it is this that will support us to combat racism. We are blessed to have such a variety of personalities, creating one melting pot that is a

direct result of an influence from a multitude of cultures. If you puncture the human skin, we all bleed red and our organs are all protected by the same amount of bones regardless of race. However, we are all cultivated on different soils, which give us a unique taste and aesthetic. Embracing these influences and obtaining a point of view from a variety of ethnic backgrounds, can hugely benefit growth in our organisation and beyond into society.

Today, we should all strive to not only accept differences, but to promote the beauty it exhumes, like a florist would celebrate having a multitude of flowers in their garden. The time to act on the acceptance of diversity and inclusion is now, for it is the only way the humanity of our rainbow nation can truly connect with and applaud the true beauty of life so that the RAF and wider society can progress in an effective, healthy and inclusive way for us all.

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Women in Engineering

RAF Odiham Chinook Force Engineers

SAC Jennifer Gaskell
-27 Squadron

Engineering is a career choice I did not make until my late twenties; having been discouraged from engineering throughout my teenage years, it took me a long time to convince myself that I was capable of pursuing a career as an engineer. Once I learned to separate myself from the assumptions of others and analyse my skills and strengths for myself, it became clear that engineering was the right career path for me. As an Aircraft Technician with the Royal Air Force, I have had some amazing opportunities to grow my technical abilities and critical thinking, and take part in a number of once-in-a-lifetime experiences. Knowing I can hold my own against my peers, proving every day that gender

has no bearing on engineering ability, is so rewarding.

I really enjoy the challenges presented by engineering in different environments and love that the job engages my brain in so many different ways whilst providing tons of hands-on experience. Alongside active deployment abroad, I have helped with flood relief in the UK and been skydiving in Cyprus. The opportunities are endless and I have only just scratched the surface of my potential in this field. Meeting and working with other female engineers has been so inspiring and although there are not currently as many female engineers in the field as I'd like, I look forward to that changing in the future.

I love that the scope of what a Chinook can do is so broad; you never know what tasking

you will be supporting next but you know that when we get the job done, the outcome will be really rewarding. I am so grateful that I am able to be a part of supporting that capability and get the opportunity to maintain such a unique airframe.

Flight Lieutenant
Katie Morris -Q&A

What's your role?

"I am Flt Lt Katie Morris, and I am an Aerosystems Engineering Officer. I am currently working as one of two Junior Engineering Officers on 27 Sqn at RAF Odiham. I look after a team of 50 technicians to generate Chinook helicopters, supporting UK and overseas tasking."

Why do you enjoy engineering so much?

"I enjoy engineering because it's a different challenge every day. I get the opportunity to use the expertise of my team to solve a wide range of technical problems, as well as supporting exercises, mentoring my team and ensuring we are always moving forward."

What's the best part of the job?

"Going on Operations. As the only EngO on shift, juggling several aircraft to meet multinational tasking in support of counter-terror operations, the pressure is on to make sound engineering decisions to get Chinooks in the air safely. The support from my team and the rest of the Sqn is fantastic, and balancing engineering risk with the need to get the aircraft flying is exciting, challenging and extremely rewarding."

Why is the Chinook Force particularly interesting?

"Chinooks are an awesome bit of kit. First brought into the RAF as a battlefield helicopter in 1982, they are very mechanical, so there is a lot of maintenance work that we can do on the Sqn's (or even in a field!). The Chinook is incredibly versatile, so we can be moving troops, landing on Royal Navy ships, transporting underslung loads, refuelling other aircraft and supporting UK emergencies all in one week. It's exciting to be able to get involved in so many different roles."

What is it like being a female Engineer in the RAF?

"Being a female Engineer in the RAF is great. I'm treated just the same as my male counterparts, and the guys and girls I work with are all fantastic technicians, regardless of their gender. The RAF is a welcoming and inclusive environment, where everyone is supported to reach their full potential."



RAF ODIHAM SUPPORTS

END OF AN ERA FOR BATTLE OF BRITAIN AIRFIELD

AND RAF FIRE TRAINING

22 October 2020 saw the last RAF fire fighters graduate from Manston which has ceased operating as the Defence Fire Training and Development Centre.

The movement of fire training to a new £5m Fire Service College in the Cotswolds after 30 years at Manston ends the RAF's 104 years association with the base, most famously associated with the Second World War and the Battle of Britain.

Describing the unit's history, Wing Commander Andy Callander, Commandant of the Defence Fire Training and Development Centre, said: *"Most people think of Manston as one of the centrepieces of the Battle of Britain. The station was almost uniquely destroyed in 1940 [due to] the number of attacks that took place on it."*

"Throughout the rest of the war, many famous feats of aviation took place from here, not least the Channel Dash, when some six Swordfish bombers attacked the German fleet in the Channel and were all shot down and the Commander was awarded a Victoria Cross," he added.

22 October marked the end of a 14-week course for the 16 Recruit Firefighters, graduating as the final course at Manston in front of their friends and family. The Reviewing Officer, The Lord Lieutenant of Kent, The Lady Colgrain was accompanied by Air Cdre Moir, Air Officer Space and Battlespace Management Force and Chief Fire Officer Gray, HQ DFR.

After the formalities of the Graduation, the closing ceremony took place, with The Band of 3 Princess of Wales Royal Regiment Beating the Retreat before a Sunset Ceremony and Chinook flypast from RAF Odiham concluded the parade.

Although the RAF's departure marks an end of an era, the site won't be closing completely as Reservists from 3rd Battalion the Princess of Wales' Royal Regiment and an Air Cadet Squadron will remain at the unit.

Flight Lieutenant Chris Warr
Photographs: SAC Hopkins
– RAF Odiham



Lord Lieutenant of Kent, The Lady Colgrain addressing the graduates.



Lord Lieutenant of Kent, The Lady Colgrain addressing the graduates.



Graduating Firefighters.



Graduating Firefighters.



18 SQN

Royal Air Force Chinooks

continue to conduct support Operations in West Africa

RAF Chinooks currently deployed in Mali have continued to conduct key supporting missions for the French and Malian ground forces during the extreme weather conditions of the Malian wet season and the recent political instability.

Despite these challenges, the recently arrived C Flight from RAF Odiham based 18 (Bomber) Squadron, that have deployed to form 1310 Flight have maintained an intensive operational tempo. 1310 Flight RAF is integrated into the French, Groupement Tactique Désert-Aérocombat, that provides aviation support for the French led OP Barkhane counterinsurgency mission in the region.

The newly arrived Chinook aircrew have supported the operations to assist the French military with a programme of re-establishing Malian Army Forward Operating Bases that will also enable future



French combat operations. These bases are spread across the Op Barkhane area of operations and the Chinooks have been conducting numerous flights to supply the French troops at each new base with supplies, equipment and heavy weaponry. Once established these bases will be handed over to the Malian Army to enable a transition to autonomous security in each area that the base will cover. These operations have involved the Chinooks operating in formation with the deployed French and Danish Helicopters. The Chinooks have also been conducting heavy lift operations transporting French military armoured vehicles, to avoid

British military Joint Helicopter Command sustain airpower operation in Mali

The British military Tri-Service Joint Helicopter Command (JHC) is leading the UK's support to the French Counter Insurgency Operations in West Africa by conducting heavy lift helicopter operations.

The deployment of Royal Air Force CH 47 Chinooks began in 2018 and it has been JHC that has sustained this operation for two years now by providing the enabling personnel, together with the planning needed to ensure the operations continue. JHC planners have recently led the work to ensure that equipment, including a Chinook could be rotated to allow long term maintenance. The complicated planning ensured a RAF C-17 Globemaster from RAF Brize Norton based 99 Squadron to be able to conduct the changeover of Chinook air frames successfully.

JHC personnel are also deployed in Mali at Gao Air base, to support 1310 Flight which is currently from C Flight 18 (B) Squadron RAF and their supporting ground crew. One of the JHC units that is supporting the operation is the Tactical Supply Wing (TSW).

The four strong TSW detachment is a key enabling element for the deployment as they carry out the fuelling of helicopters and other aircraft as needed. To do this they also have to be able to maintain the equipment and conduct fuels quality assurance testing prior to any refuel to ensure that the fuel is fit for use.

The detachment is equipped with a very large Oshkosh Tactical Aircraft Refueller tanker that can hold 15,000 litres of fuel. All of the detachment are qualified to operate the Oshkosh pumping compartment or to be on the hose end of refuels, connecting the hose to the aircraft and conducting the refuel. The fuel that is used is drawn from the main French fuel depot based at the airfield and then the detachment blend in additives that brings the fuel to UK military grade specifications.



Corporal Russ Purcell, the TSW detachment commander said:

"It is very satisfying to be able to put all of our training into practice in such a challenging situation and to see that our skills contribute to the successful completion of the various missions we are supporting."

As the operation has developed the small TSW team's role has increased. This means they are now routinely able to refuel the RAF C-17 and Atlas A400M's that provide the logistical airbridge that sustains the operation. Additionally, however the TSW detachment has increasingly taken the lead in introducing specialist refuelling activities for all of the helicopters currently based at Gao, including the Danish Merlins and the French Tiger helicopters as well as the RAF Chinooks.

The programme of interoperability training has introduced rotors turning refuels. This means the helicopter is refuelled without the engines

being shut down and the rotors are still turning. This refuelling procedure is a specialist activity that requires additional training and is an activity the UK military refuellers from the RAF and Army Air Corps specialise in.

Following this training the TSW personnel have been using their unique expertise to support UK, Danish and French flying operations both on base and out on the ground. The RAF Chinooks can deploy with additional fuel to allow refuelling away from the airbase and so extend the range of operations of French and Danish helicopters.

Lieutenant Colonel Steve Brining, the UK's National Component Commander and senior officer in Mali said:

"The role of JHC has been critical to the success of the UK's helicopter operations in the African Sahel region. The enablers that are deployed provide the critical mission support that is needed to conduct these operations successfully together with the support we receive from the Joint Helicopter Command Headquarters back in the UK."

road moves and to enable the element of surprise by moving a unit under the cover of darkness.

"The Chinook offers a unique capability to our French partners. We can lift up to 34 fully armed soldiers allowing them to overcome the huge scale of Mali or equally several tons of food, water and ammunition providing the flexibility for remote troops to stay in the field longer to achieve their objective." - Squadron Leader Jeff "Fitzy" Fitzpatrick, Officer Commanding 1310 Flight.

In addition to the ongoing operations, the RAF Personnel deployed from the Tactical Supply Wing, that are supporting the Chinook operations, have also been conducting interoperability training with French helicopters and Danish Merlin Helicopter detachment that is also integrated into the French, Groupement Tactique Désert-Aérocombat. This training has seen the helicopters being refuelled by the RAF personnel and equipment to conduct what is known as rotors turning refuels. This means the helicopter is refuelled without the engines being shut down and with the rotors still turning.

This refuelling procedure is a specialist activity that requires additional training and is an activity that the UK military

refuellers from the RAF and Army Air Corps specialise in. Following this training the TSW personnel have been using their unique expertise to support UK, Danish and French flying operations both on base and out on the ground. This has included carrying out simultaneous rotors turning refuels where fuel is provided to two helicopters whilst the blades are still turning.





The Chinook Force has met 'Max' the lifesaving miracle dog on a special occasion to support a charity fundraiser for Scotty's Little Soldiers.

Max, Paddy and Harry the three springer spaniels from the Lake District had their photos taken with a CH-47 Chinook from Royal Air Force Odiham with poppy bandanas around their necks to mark this year's Remembrance Day.

Recognised worldwide, Max and his owner Mr Kerry Irving from Keswick have attracted a huge following on their Facebook Page 'Max Out in the Lake District' who tune into their daily walks in the National Park in Cumbria.

A huge Chinook fan, Kerry and the three dogs have a large military following on their Social Media, particularly with those who have served in Iraq and Afghanistan and perhaps turn to their dogs to remind them of home and relax.

Kerry is raising money for a charity called 'Scotty's Little Soldiers' which is a military charity that supports children and young people who have lost a parent who served in the British Armed Forces. Founder, Nikki Scott, set up the charity after her husband, Corporal Lee Scott, was killed in Action in Afghanistan in 2009.

Mr Kerry Irving said: "I'm honoured to have spent time meeting with Chinook Force and to see these incredible machines close up. The dogs really enjoyed meeting the crew and I think it's fairly clear the crew enjoyed it too!"

The fundraiser was launched on Remembrance Sunday and in just over 24 hours, it has received over £16,000 in generous donations.

Flying Officer Rosie Middleton



Photographs: Mr Kerry Irving, with his kind permission to share.

RAF Odiham MT Section Supports Food Bank Collections During Coronavirus



RAF Odiham Mechanical Transport Section was looking for a charity organisation to help within the local area. Ian made contact with the Hart Council to look into supporting the local food bank collections.

MT Control have placed a Food Bank collection point within the section and are awaiting your kind donations from Station. Our local community may be perceived as wealthy, however there are many people that do struggle in the Odiham/Hook and Fleet area and have to rely on food banks.

The need for food banks will become ever more important under the current COVID-19 climate and Christmas isn't that far away.

Hart Council are hugely appreciative of our support, the Food Bank is open and awaiting your kind donations.

Mr Ian Hick & MT Control

Get your Tri-service socks for Christmas and support the Armed Forces

COMPANY DESIGN SSAFA SOCKS TO SUPPORT ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY

Win or Lose, a premium online clothing brand is delighted to announce their partnership with SSAFA, the Armed Forces charity. Win or Lose have created a Tri-Service Sock. £1.00 from the sale of each sock will go towards helping the Armed Forces community. The company have also included this initiative on a selected range of their most popular socks. This premium sock range enables people to 'show their colours' and is the perfect Christmas gift.

A spokesperson from Win or Lose said:
'We are delighted to be partnering with SSAFA to help raise funds for many courageous and loving families in the Armed Forces community. 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.'

Find your Tri-Service Sock here and support the Armed Forces community:
<https://www.win-or-lose.com/shop/socks/ssafa/>



RAF Odiham Represented at Target Rifle Inter-Service Success

RAF Odiham had strong representation in this year's Target Rifle Inter-Service matches held at Bisley National Shooting Centre in Surrey on Wednesday 16th September.



The team of 12 featured Sgt Scott Glanville (27 Sqn) as Captain and SAC(T) Tristan Hammond. The matches, a short range match at 300, 500 and 600 yards and a long range match at 900 and 1000 yards, are held as

part of the National Rifle Association's Imperial competition, normally held over 8 days in July. Due to the pandemic though it was postponed this year until government guidelines on outdoor sport could be eased. This meant that training opportunities

were minimal. Undeterred though, under great weather conditions the team put in a strong performance in the morning for the short range match with great team work, and were in the lead by a single point after 300 yards.

The Army, never a team to enjoy losing shooting competitions to the RAF, doubled down and were able to make the better of the calm conditions as the match moved back to 500 and 600 yards to eventually take the Short Range Trophy by 16 points, leaving the RAF to take 2nd place. Undeterred though, and with the wind conditions challenging the coaches far more than in the morning, the RAF's disciplined approach paid dividends in the afternoon for the long range match which we eventually managed to win by 14 points, the first time we'd won it since 2010!

If you have done target rifle previously and would like to get back into it or would just like to try shooting iron-sighted rifles at targets nearly a kilometre away then please get in touch with Scott Glanville at 27 Sqn. (If it helps, our recent tour history includes South Africa, California and the Caribbean! We have a return trip to South Africa planned for 2022....!) Anyone interested in small bore shooting should contact Tristan Hammond in the Avionics Bay.



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disclosure@healthassured.co.uk
healthassured.org

*The helpline is available 24/7, 365 days a year, your call will never go unanswered.

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BULLYING

Bullying is defined as: Offensive, intimidating, or insulting behaviour that can make a person feel vulnerable, upset, undermined, humiliated, or threatened.

Bullying behaviour could include:

- Verbal abuse
- Physical or psychological threats
- Unreasonable work expectations
- Practical jokes
- Sending or posting detrimental material about an individual

HARASSMENT

Harassment is defined as: Unwanted physical, verbal or non-verbal conduct that has the purpose or effect of violating a person's dignity or creating an intimidating, hostile, humiliating or offensive environment for them.

Harassing behaviour could include:

- Spoken or written abuse or intimidation
- Tweets or posts on websites and social media
- Images and graffiti
- Physical gestures
- Facial expressions or mimicry
- Unwanted banter or use of a nickname that is offensive
- Aggression and physical behaviour towards a person

DISCRIMINATION

Discrimination is defined as: A person treated less favourably either directly or indirectly than another because of a protected characteristic (e.g. age or disability).

Discriminatory behaviour could include:

- Excluding from work activities or conversations
- Making jokes or comments about a person or group stereotype (discrimination is related to one or more protected characteristics e.g. race or sexual orientation)

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Everyone is encouraged to report incidents of bullying, harassment discrimination to ensure they receive the support and protection they need. This service is provided by Health Assured, an independent employee wellbeing service provider.

*The helpline is available 24/7, 365 days a year, your call will never go unanswered.



RAF Odiham Catering Deployment Squadron complete field refresher training

Between 07-10 Sep 20 personnel from RAF Odiham Catering Deployment Squadron (CDS) participated in the Unit Annual Field Catering Refresher Training. This training is recognised as a Catering competency and is a requirement for deploying overseas. Qualified personnel can be utilised as an Individual

Augmentee (IA) in support of 3 Mobile Catering Squadron (3MCS) at crash sites, exercises, disaster relief, operations and large-scale events, such as the 2012 Olympics.

The training day consists of a series of instructor-led lessons relating to the operation and maintenance of the Operational Field Catering System (OFCS) and

the Lightweight Field Generator (LFG). As a team, personnel erect a bespoke 24 x 18 tent, plan and set up the OFCS and the dining room. They are then tasked to produce a lunch consisting of two hot choices, potatoes, vegetables and two dessert choices. This is all produced utilising the 10-man Operational Ration Pack (ORP).

After lunch, the team break down the tentage, clean and pack away all equipment prior to concluding the day with a written examination to check and confirm understanding.

Sergeant David Sandilands



RAF Odiham Personnel Support

Petersfield Community Hospital Staff



Personnel from RAF Odiham have supported the creation of a relaxing memorial garden for the staff at Petersfield Community Hospital

Throughout COVID 19 we have had an increase in many people suffering from isolation and the feeling of worthlessness due to the lockdown and social distancing. However, many are feeling overwhelmed by the workload and sadness that has been highlighted within our amazing NHS staff. When people from both sides come together, wonderful things can and do happen.

Petersfield Community hospital had this in mind when they put a call out for volunteers to help their nursing team convert an obsolete area into a Staff Welfare and Memorial Garden. Fg Off

Rosie Middleton saw this request and knew that this was a job for personnel from RAF Odiham and RAF (U) Swanwick.

It is amazing the power of doing something for others and this was reflected in the many volunteers that responded across the stations to Fg Off Middleton who organised all those 'Green Fingered' helpers to travel down to Petersfield by Odiham's MT (whom we must thank), in the pursuit of making that difference.

Waiting for us at the hospital on a lovely sunny dry September day was ex-Navy Dean Deakins along with a brew, many doughnuts and

biscuits from the Hospital Staff. They sure know how to encourage military people to get a job done!

After receiving the days objectives from Rosie, we were split into several teams to tackle the many tasks; one of the main aims undertaken by the combined efforts of the Odiham Medics and the Duty Operations Controllers was to dig out and prepare a solid foundation for a summer house that was kindly donated from the Captain Sir Tom Moore NHS Charities. It was quite a novelty digging a hole and then filling it back in again with scalpings, ready for the concrete pour (which for those who don't know, scalpings are granular sub-base foundations prior to the fill). The other tasks tackled by SHFHQ, Swanwick and again Medic personnel, was the clearing of several tonnes of soil to make ready for a tranquil winding path, moving 6x 800kg builders' bags of sand and gravel (which I might add was all moved by hand and wheelbarrows), clearing weeds and cleaning brickwork with jet washers.

Our host for the day Sarah Deakins said: 'Just by you all being there has really bonded the staff, from all departments as you could see. Amazing what uniforms can do!'

Throughout the day the positive comments from the staff at the hospital were overwhelming and the number of photographs taken from all angles made the RAF team

feel like celebrities (amongst their NHS heroes).

With so many challenges facing the NHS, it is pleasing to know that there is now a pleasant place for the nurses and indeed anyone else visiting Petersfield Community Hospital, to rest, recharge and be ready to take care once more, for the enormous demands our professional but complex healthcare tackles in this present climate and into an unknown future.

It is amazing how the quest of doing something for others in times of need can have a positive action on the mental health to anyone, in this instance those who are in uniforms are projected to stay strong for those who are vulnerable. Thank you to all those who were involved.

Sergeant Angela Armstrong



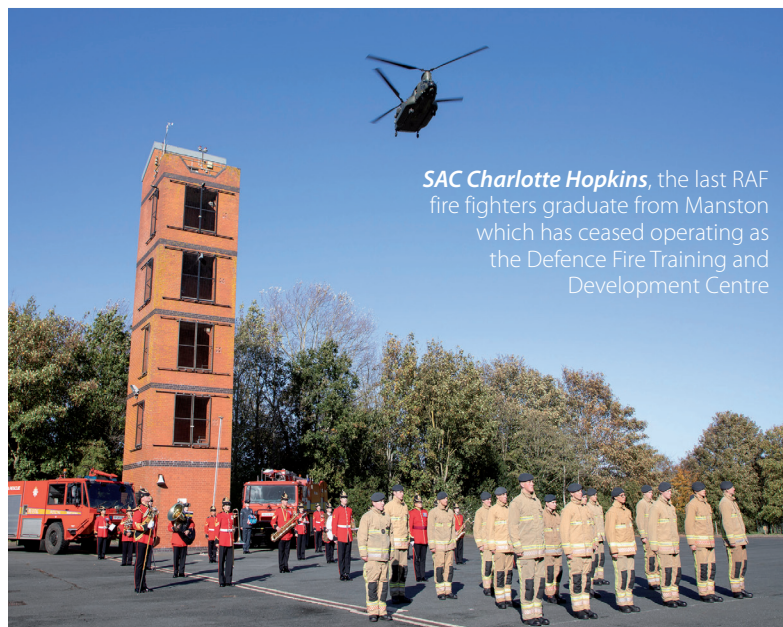
Photographic Section

Cpl Timothy Laurence

Royal Air Force Chinook helicopters based at RAF Odiham conduct routine flying training in the Mountain Flying Training Area (MFTA) located in North Wales. The terrain and environment is used to simulate what the Chinook Force is subjected to whilst on overseas Operations and commitments to UK National Standby. (Images 1, 2 and 3)



SAC Charlotte Hopkins, 27 Squadron, RAF Odiham, conducting under-slung load training with helicopter handling specialists from Joint Helicopter Support Squadron.



SAC Charlotte Hopkins, the last RAF fire fighters graduate from Manston which has ceased operating as the Defence Fire Training and Development Centre

Ex WAAF Phyllis Felton:

Happy 100th Birthday

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

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Squadron Leader Rhos Edwards from RAF Odiham, Flight Lieutenant Mark McKinstry and Corporal Rob Bourne visited Ex Women's Auxillary Air Force Phyllis Felton in August to wish her a very Happy 100th Birthday on behalf of the Royal Air Force.

Phyllis' family hosted a small surprise birthday party where Sqn Ldr Edwards learnt about Phyllis' time in the WAAF. Phyllis commissioned as a Flying Officer and was involved with Coastal Command tracking U-Boats and E-Boats during critical phases of the war. Additionally, Phyllis supported the D-Day planning efforts and towards the end of the War she was posted to the Far East. Phyllis has received many awards for her service including being mentioned in dispatches, receiving an MBE and being awarded the Legion D'Honneur for her service.

"I really have been spoilt rotten and having members of the Royal Air Force here has been a massive plus. I have so many fond memories of my time serving in the WAAF."
Phyllis Felton

"We are incredibly lucky she has such clear memories from her time in the WAAF. She is so humble and it perfectly underscores that generation that just got on with it in such difficult times. It has been a fantastic day and it is brilliant to have birthday wishes delivered by the Royal Air Force in person." - Michael Felton, Phyllis' Son.

"It was my honour to attend Phyllis' birthday celebration and to pass on the best wishes of the Royal Air Force to such a remarkable lady. It is vital we continue to show our gratitude to our veterans and properly mark the sacrifices they made in such testing times all those years ago." - Squadron Leader Rhos Edwards, RAF Odiham



Motorcycle Club 2020



AXEL DOWLE
PHOTOGRAPHIC



AXEL DOWLE
PHOTOGRAPHIC

The RAF Odiham Motorcycle Club (OMCC) like just about everyone reading this has been severely affected by the Coronavirus this year. It has curtailed several of our planned events, but the core of the club has kept going with members taking part in activities over the late summer period.

Late last year saw the club hold a very successful Christmas present wrapping evening at the Families' Club with nearly 50 members attending. Some 100 presents were wrapped and then taken to the Children's Ward at Basingstoke Hospital for those children who are too ill to leave hospital over the festive period. The presents go out to not only those on the wards, but also those being cared for at home. The OMCC are the only club to do this for the Children in the local area and as ever, the donations are greatly appreciated.

Early in 2020 the club membership passed through the 400 mark, with the resultant monthly club meetings in the Families' Club averaging over 50. With guest speakers from the biking world including presentations by the Blood Bikers Group, dealerships, motorcycle engineering companies and a 'Jumbly' evening, coupled with a subsidised bar, attendance at the meetings was high. The meetings were then cut short due to COVID after just 3 successful months with the committee meetings being forced online.

In the Spring, COVID put paid to the tours of Scotland and later in the Spring a tour of Wales. The April and subsequent June Airfield Riding Days (ARD) also fell by the wayside. In June the first of the commercial track day events at Cadwell was postponed as was an off-road riding event in Wales. Summer should have seen '90's Cup' events in Holland, France and Belgium but again these were also cancelled. These events normally give the chance for those who have never raced to take part in competitive events around Europe. The club has 2 bikes that they enter, with 3 riders per bike, competing in 2-3 hour endurance races. A minimum standard of riding is required (on safety grounds) but the club is on hand to transport the bikes and support the riders.

Despite the British MotoGP in August being cancelled (with 100 heavily subsidised tickets for the club), the saving grace came with the running of the rescheduled commercial track day event at Cadwell following the relaxation of restrictions by the Government. The club were able to have the circuit to themselves for 2 full days. An afternoon of rain on the 1st day

did not dampen the spirits, and a 2nd day of clear blue skies and a low crash rate resulted in lots of track time for all. Due to the club's calendar of events being severely curtailed by COVID, the club took the opportunity to run another 2-day club event at Cadwell late September, albeit the weather was not as kind to us for this event. Next year's 'commercial' event is still in the planning stage, but late June at Snetterton looks to be on the cards.

In September, after working hard with the Station Health & Safety Team and the Station Executives, the Club was permitted to run a weekend-long event. We normally aim to run 3 ARD a year, in the spring, mid and late summer. This year's only ARD

then became a weekend long event in early September, 150 riders having the chance to use the airfield for the weekend with special measures put in place to mitigate the risks of COVID.

The track was setup on the Friday using bales of straw to protect airfield infrastructure, supplied from the farm at the western end of the airfield, a sea of cones to mark the course and the setup of the paddock area for the riders with allocated spaces for mitigation reasons, but with no spectators at all for the first time! The ARD is organised as a training day for novice, intermediate and advanced riders on how to improve their bike control at low and high speed. Separating the groups allows the riders to





develop their own skills without having any undue pressure from riders of significantly different abilities; in addition, a cohort of highly experienced instructors was on hand to advise those who needed it.

The circuit is fully marshalled with volunteers manning 7 points, controlled by a chief marshal. Two roaming vehicles can recover any bikes that may break down and two paramedic ambulances are also on hand should there be any incidents. Bikes are fully checked before being allowed on circuit which also includes noise testing to ensure they adhere to db limits. Support agencies at the weekend ARD were limited to just the tyre supply/repair company who

also advised on suspension set up. In addition, the essential 'Porkys' breakfast and lunch van with Hasan's famous foot long heart attack waiting to happen breakfast roll was also present!

The weekend was a fantastic success, a new booking in measures was put in place and the hardworking committee members stated that it is easier to run a weekend event than single days, a point taken on for next year's planning. The ARD shows the diversity of the club

by incorporating workshops and advanced riding skills to those club members taking part. Most importantly, it raises money not only for external charities, but also for the Station with some £2,500 going to the RAF Odiham Charity Fund. These funds were then donated to Buryfield's Infant School and Odiham's Cottage Hospital by the Station Commander and club OIC.

In late September, committee members helped run the weekend long ARD at RAF Shawbury, drawing their vast experience gained at Odiham. Instructors and a Clerk of the Course helped see one of our sister Station run an event that again raised a considerable sum of money for charities.

The club not only runs ARDs, but also a Mopedathon (teams of 4 running a 50cc moped using the Kart Track as a course for an endurance event), but sadly with the COVID restrictions showing its ugly head again in late September, it had to be cancelled. All our events require volunteers and without them, none of the above can take place and they are the true unsung heroes of the club's success. The OMCC normally meets on the first Wednesday of every month at the Families Club from 20:00

onwards; hopefully this will resume once restrictions are lifted. Next year's events are already being planned, a single long weekend ARD and a single day ARD later in the year. Tours are also being planned along with off-road riding days. Tickets for this year's British MotoGP are good for next August too and hopefully we will see a return to the monthly meetings at the Families' Club soon.

Membership is free for serving personnel but an annual membership fee of £20 applies to civilians.

Flight Sergeant Gary Baker

For information on club membership and next year's events, please contact FS Gary Baker at gary.baker150@mod.gov.uk or ext 7480. Alternatively, please take a look at www.omcc.co.uk or the RAF Odiham Clubs' SharePoint page where you will find the OMCC listed and link to its SharePoint website.





RAF VETERAN AND RESERVIST GOES THE DISTANCE FOR SSAFA

Former RAF Chinook Crewman and current Boeing employee tackles 500-mile cycle challenge across the UK

Simon O'Brien, from Hook in Hampshire, set himself a series of cycle challenges to raise money for SSAFA, the Armed Forces charity.

Simon - also known as 'OB' - is the Lead Operations Analyst at Boeing's Portal in Hampshire and through a series of cycle challenges, connected key military and Boeing sites across the UK, with the aim to raise £5,000 to help current and ex-serving, and their families.

OB joined Boeing in 2017 after serving 34 years in the Royal Air Force. The former Chinook crewman returned to full time Reservist duty earlier this year when he was mobilised to support Joint Helicopter Command as part of the military's response to the COVID-19 crisis.

He said "With so many SSAFA fundraising events cancelled or postponed this year due to COVID-19,

including the London-Brighton cycle ride that I was due to take part in, I simply couldn't sit back and do nothing. I came up with this individual challenge idea, which allows me to go it alone on my bike while joining the dots between the military communities along the way. It's my way of recognising and honouring the hard work of SSAFA who have continued to support the Armed Forces family throughout - and in spite of - the pandemic."

His route included RAF Odiham, RAF Benson and the RAF Museum, RNAS Yeovilton, Middle Wallop - home of the Army Air Corps - and the naval town of Gosport, which is also a key Boeing site.

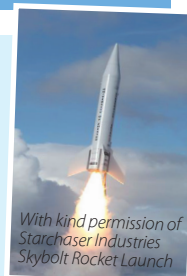
Alice Young, Senior Special Events Officer at SSAFA, the Armed Forces charity said: "We are grateful to OB for thinking outside of the box to adapt his support of our vital work with the military community. Now, more than ever, we need to be able to respond to the men, women and families who make up our Forces family swiftly and effectively - and every penny raised from this amazing challenge will go towards underpinning this aim".

ssafa the Armed Forces charity



RAF Odiham Technician works on **SPACE ROCKET**

The largest rocket ever launched from mainland Britain will contain engineering work crafted by a Royal Air Force technician based at RAF Odiham in Hampshire



General Technicians are the engineering workforce of the RAF. Corporal Stuart Boyle (30) is a member of the Station Workshops Team at RAF Odiham, which supports Project ADDITIVE, a collaborative Astra-led initiative which culminates 3-D printing resources across the RAF.

Recently, Stuart completed a work experience placement with Starchaser Industries. Established in 1998 Starchaser Industries Ltd is a technology company that specialises in the development, operation and commercialisation of space related products and services. Starchaser enables new space related opportunities by providing safe, reliable, affordable and reusable access to space for the space tourism and micro-satellite launch markets. Work experiences like this enable RAF personnel to experience different ways of working and bring something new back to the workplace.

RAF Workshop Technicians are trained to engineer, manufacture and modify aircraft components and their support equipment. At Starchaser, Stuart helped to design an in-flight fin system using 3D Computer-aided Design (CAD) and Computer-aided Manufacturing (CAM) software. This will stabilise their Nova 2 rocket capsule when it releases from the rocket for re-entry. At 13 metres tall, the Nova 2 rocket

will be the largest ever launched from the British mainland. Mr Steven Bennett, Chief Executive Officer of Starchaser Industries said: "Stuart joined Starchaser on a four-day placement with the aim of enhancing the design of our current rocket project, Nova 2. He quickly became a valuable asset to the team where he used his knowledge of CAD to design a Grid Fin system which will be used to stabilise the Nova 2 capsule during flight. He also did a great job in our composites workshop, where he created parts for the rocket recovery (parachute) system. Extremely impressed by his efforts, we'd be more than happy to work with Stuart in the future."

Stuart said: "It was an excellent opportunity to go to Starchaser and develop something that will be flown in 2021. I learned new skills and opened my eyes to the many parallels between Military aviation and Civil Space Flight. I would also like to thank Steve and his team for the experience."

Stuart's placement was arranged through the RAF Astra Team. Astra is committed to building the next generation of the Royal Air Force by developing the potential of its people, equipment and networks. Stuart's placement is an example of how Astra is using different experiences to develop the talents of RAF personnel. Station Warrant Officer and RAF Odiham Astra Lead, Warrant Officer Michael Maguire said: "Astra continues to present brilliant opportunities to our Next Generation RAF. Thank you, Starchaser Industries, for giving RAF Corporal Boyle this experience which has enhanced his skillset which can be translated into his work here at RAF Odiham and Team Additive".

Fg Off Rosie Middleton

By kind permission of Starchaser Industries Stuart with Mr Steven Bennett, CEO Starchaser Industries





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