

Helicon

The Magazine of RAF Odiham Issue 3 • 2021

 **ROYAL
AIR FORCE
ODIHAM**



IN THIS ISSUE: Mayhill Junior School Camo Day • ASTRA • 27 Squadron • RAF Odiham Motorcycle Club



The Spinal Answer Chiropractic

At the Spinal Answer Chiropractic we strive to provide excellent chiropractic care for all ages which incorporates nutrition, fitness and lifestyle advice to optimise your health.

Chiropractic treatment includes manipulation, mobilisation and soft tissue techniques that can help with a range of conditions including back pain, certain types of headache and extremity joint conditions.

0207 736 2550

info@spinalanswer.co.uk



Book an appointment online now



Pregnancy

All Ages

Sports & Athletes

www.spinalanswer.co.uk

The Spinal Answer Chiropractic Clinic, 59 Winchester Road, Four Marks, Hampshire, GU34 5HR

The Royal British Legion is celebrating its 100th Anniversary this year with a special programme of activity, culminating in a Centenary Poppy Appeal. Born in the aftermath of the First World War, the RBL's founding mission was to fight for the rights of those who had given so much and come back to so little.

Over the last century the RBL has successfully campaigned for a series of landmark changes which have benefitted serving personnel and veterans. More recently the charity has been at the forefront of calls for the Armed Forces Covenant to be enshrined in law. For the first time in history, a military question was included in the Census in England and Wales this year after a successful campaign led by the RBL and Poppy Scotland.

With 100 years of experience, the RBL provides lifelong care and support to all serving and ex-serving personnel and their families. This ranges from *expert advice and guidance*, to *recovery and rehabilitation*, through to transitioning to civilian life.

One of the RBL's earliest interventions after the First World War treated tuberculosis, rheumatism and arthritis which were widespread among the veteran population. In an age before the National Health Service, the British Legion implemented specialist treatment facilities for these conditions. Twenty years later these hospitals and wards became some of the foundation building blocks of the newly established NHS.

At the height of more recent combat operations in 2011, the RBL opened its Battle Back Centre in Lilleshall to support wounded and injured service personnel returning from Iraq and Afghanistan. That same year, the RBL also helped fund and establish the Centre for Blast Injury Studies at Imperial College London. This was the first collaboration of its kind, bringing together civilian engineers, medics and scientists to work alongside military doctors to reduce the effects of roadside bombs and Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs). In 2018 the Royal British Legion also funded the Complex Trauma Gym at the Defence Medical Rehabilitation Centre, Stanford Hall.

The Royal British Legion's Head of Armed Forces Engagement, Alexander Owen said:

"Over the last 100 years the military community has helped the RBL build our proud legacy which continues to this day. In this special year we pay tribute to the passionate and dedicated support given to us by generations of serving personnel and their families."

"From volunteering during the Poppy Appeal, to taking on fundraising challenges or being a part of our Remembrance and commemorative events, these contributions help make the RBL what it is today."

"For a century the Royal British Legion has been a symbol of hope for the Armed Forces community, and we want to inspire the next generation to support our vital work to create better futures for all those who serve with the British Armed Forces."

The Armed Forces Community is being encouraged to visit the Centenary Hub online at www.rbl.org.uk to get involved and also find out about volunteering opportunities.





Support the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal today

For over 100 years people have supported the Poppy Appeal, helping us provide better futures for those who serve. Whether you're a proud Poppy Appeal collector or running 100 miles in fancy dress – however you choose to get involved, we couldn't do it without you. Because every poppy counts.

Find out what you can do today to support the Poppy Appeal
rbl.org.uk/poppyappeal



Registered charity number: 219279





HELICON CONTACTS

OIC

Sqn Ldr Michael Clark, COS BSW

Editor

Flt Lt Kerry Rapson, MCO

Deputy Editor

Fg Off Colin Carey, ADJT

Email

ODI-Helicon@mod.gov.uk

Article Submissions

Please send all articles to
odi.bsw.helicon@gmail.com

Deadline date for the next issue:
14th February 2022

PLEASE SUBMIT ALL ENTRIES
FOR THE NEXT ISSUE NO LATER
THAN THE DATE STATED ABOVE.

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.

JOIN US ON SOCIAL MEDIA



@rafodiham



@RAF_Odiham
@StnCdrRAFOdiham



@rafodiham

RAF Odiham Website

www.raf.mod.uk/rafodiham

ON THE COVER

RAF Odiham Chinook and RAF Benson Puma celebrate combined 90 years' service with iconic flypast, Nov 2021

DESIGNED AND PRINTED BY
LANCE PRINT LTD
ADVERTISING: DARREN G
darreng@lanceprint.co.uk

CONTENTS

Station Commander's Foreword	05
ASTRA	06
Deployment Clothing Stores Recycle garden	06
27 Squadron RAF Regiment at RAF Honington	07
Royal British Legion Triathlon	08
Mayhill Junior School Camo Day	09
RAF Odiham Motorcycle Club	10
RAF Veteran Cycling challenge for SSAFA	11
RAF Odiham Netball Team	14
RAF Odiham Saddle Club	17



07



10



11



17

PC-Dad

Affordable
Computer Repair.

Service
Upgrade / Fixes

For Basingstoke and
surrounding areas.

Contact Pc-Dad on
07887 530683



Lanceprint
Please support our
advertisers
Please mention the magazine when
responding to them
THANK YOU

STATION COMMANDER'S FOREWORD

Welcome to the 2021 Issue 3 of RAF Odiham

Welcome to this issue of Helicon – my first as Station Commander. It is a great pleasure to be here at Odiham and on the Chinook Force. I am incredibly proud of this Station and the Force. In previous jobs I have looked on in envy at the respect and high regard in which you are all held.

It has been lovely to see the recent photos of the Chinook Anniversary paint scheme aircraft – reinforcing the message that it is 40 years of operations – and that Defence couldn't have delivered what it has without the mighty Chinook Force. That legacy of course continues to this day with the contribution you are all making in Mali and on other deployments.



I was also impressed by the positive attitude displayed by all those who deployed to the Somme-like conditions of Falcons Amarante.

Some of the most enjoyable experiences I have had so far during my time here at Odiham have been the Bosses Brews that I have had at several squadrons and flights. I have also enjoyed being involved in presenting awards and recognising the amazing contributions made by people here at Odiham. The Boeing Pin ceremony was a humbling event as it recognised people who have spent full working careers supporting Chinook

Editor's FOREWORD

Flt Lt Kerry Rapson

Welcome to the 2021 Issue 3 of the Helicon Magazine. As normal, this is a chock-full edition covering a small amount of what the Chinook Force and RAF Odiham personnel have been up to for the past few months. Across the Station, essential training, Exercises, club events and charity ventures have begun to creep back into the calendar. Since the previous publication we have bid a fond farewell to Gp Capt Knight, wishing him the best in his future endeavours, and welcomed in Gp Capt McGurk as the new Station Commander.

We also said goodbye to Helicon's previous editor, Flt Lt Middleton as she handed



over to me, before heading off to her new posting. It has been a brilliant experience to bring together all the fantastic articles that have been submitted recently, and I hope that you enjoy reading this latest edition.

operations – military, civilian and some who have done a bit of both. However, the bit I enjoy the most is presenting the Station Commander's Coins. These moments are really special because I get a chance to have an enlightening chat with the recipient – who always explains more about the human story behind the award.

I moved to Odiham the day before Families' Day, which was an amazing event on a beautiful Summer's day. But I write this now with the Christmassy Winter Wonderland having just occurred

and it is now really wintery. I bring that up partly because COVID has reared its head again.

Although we are not in lockdown, I urge you all to take the disease seriously, and not let the fact it feels like it has been a very long drag wear you down. We still need to sensibly look after each other and protect our critical outputs – Hands, Face, Space and Vaccines remain good maxims. So, stay safe, look after yourselves and your families and I expect like me, you are looking forward to some warmer weather in the Spring.



ASTRA

The second anniversary of ASTRA is swiftly approaching and the network at Odiham continue to work hard to improve aspects of Station life, as we look towards the RAF of 2040.

For those who have yet to hear about it, ASTRA is the name that has been chosen for the RAF's journey towards our Next Generation Air Force. It focusses on four main pillars of people, equipment, infrastructure, and training.

You may well have begun to see several top-down ASTRA initiatives being introduced at Odiham. One example is PROJECT HYDRO, which is the much-needed modernisation of heating and hot water. Additionally, there are several projects in the 'people' pillar, such as the introduction of talent-management programmes which aim to ensure that talent is nurtured and capitalised upon at all career stages. Odiham is also leading the way on some of these top-down ideas through projects such as PROJECT ADDITIVE, which has seen several 3D printers arrive on station. These printers are being used in the newly created Additive Manufacturing Facility (AMF) to enhance the delivery of prototype aircraft parts and Airfield Support Equipment. You may not know though that there is also the Odiham 3D-Printing club, which is available to all personnel to join.

Importantly, there are also several bottom-up projects being introduced at Odiham which have all stemmed from Odiham personnel's ideas. These include PROJECT SCARIF, which is aiming to digitalise the FMT600 with Odiham as the proof of concept unit and PROJECT HERA through which Odiham has been granted £90,000 to purchase an air traffic control synthetic trainer. Finally, through our sustainability arm, led by Flt Lt Keith Greer, there are trials ongoing with waterless urinals and aims to introduce more efficient toilets that save water and energy.

So how can you get involved? If you want to challenge policy, submit an idea for improvement or just want to be kept up to date with the latest news simply email ODI-ASTRAGMB@mod.gov.uk and we can include you in the network. So far ASTRA has granted over £1.3M to ASTRA project or 'sprints' alone throughout the RAF. There is still over £1M of sprint funding available; let's ensure the personnel at RAF Odiham can benefit from this!



Deployment Clothing Stores Recycle Garden

In the early part of this year an idea was thrown into the ring by some of the civilian contractors to create a garden area to the side of Deployment Clothing Stores.

It was to be made from furniture items that had been returned to Stores destined to be broken down for the wood skip and other useful items we found in the scrapyards hence the name. The planters are old chest of drawers with the top cut out and handles removed.

The heather planters are an old water barrel cut in half. The sign was made from the top of an old tea-bar table with the bottom used as a planter. To create the colour scheme paint that was to be thrown away was used. Sgt Katie Lea applied to the LIG fund for our table and chair set which has also been made from recycled materials.

Constructing the garden was fitted in around our day to day work. The windmill was made from an old pallet and the sunshade which had been thrown out was rescued and repaired.

The compost and plants that hadn't been donated were all bought when on special or three for two offers at local shops. For minimal cost and a bit of hard work we have made a garden for all in the section to enjoy. We just need to swot up on gardening tips.

Your 'Ground Force' team consisted of Mark, Lionel, Bob, Matt and Janice. Many thanks to Laura from the Station Photographic Section for taking the photos.





Flypast over the disbandment parade of 27 Squadron RAF Regiment at RAF Honington

On Wed 06 Oct, 27 Squadron were scheduled to conduct a flypast over the disbandment parade of 27 Squadron RAF Regiment at RAF Honington.

That morning, the aircraft nominated to fly was declared unserviceable and, due to on-going commitments to national standby, 27 Sqn had no other serviceable Chinooks that could complete the flypast. The maintenance work required to regenerate the flying cab was not going to be completed on time. Reluctantly, 27 Sqn had to inform RAF Honington that they were going to be unable to achieve the flypast, on a very significant

day for an important Squadron, much to their dismay. With that the crew were stood down.

With no options on the table and none of the 27 Sqn aircraft able to support the flypast due to high priority tasking, OC27 made a call to 18 Squadron, who said 27 could use one of their aircraft (ZA683) that was due to fly later in the day, but had a window of 3 hours flying available. That aircraft was not however, prepared for flight. 18 Squadron pulled their aircraft out of the

hangar immediately, completed a large amount of paperwork in record time in order to release it to flight earlier than expected. The 27 crew were called back into work and were rapidly briefed for the sortie, resubmitting all of the flight planning paperwork with help from other pilots and crewmen on the Squadron.

The 27 Sqn planning team went over to 18 Sqn to pick up the technical log for ZA683. The second it was ready and signed off for flight, they dashed it to the aircraft captain, who was stood waiting on the ramp of the Chinook! Flt Lt Boyd signed for the aircraft but a technical glitch on the mission planning system meant the airspace updates for the day couldn't be loaded onto data transfer devices that transport it to the aircraft, making it illegal to fly!

Luckily, due to experience gained on operations, one of the 27 Sqn captains had seen the glitch before and managed to use a manual method of loading the data onto the aircraft, which was launched with not a minute to spare, the navigation kit, finally, properly configured.

The crew had no time for the 10-minute hold they had planned, in order to make sure they timed

flypast perfectly. Instead they had to manage their progress very meticulously through London's busy airspace, to emerge on the far side in enough time to hit the time-on-target. The flypast occurred, on-time, to the second.

Delivered by teamwork across both 18 and 27 Squadrons... a flypast for 27 Squadron RAF Regt, by 27 Squadron RAF... and by chance, the aircraft 18 Squadron supplied was in 2015-16, the airframe which wore 27 Squadron's centenary artwork 'Nellie' on its tail. It couldn't have been a more appropriate airframe to recognise the end of our sister RAF Regiment squadron.

It was a fitting and poignant end to 27 Squadron RAF Regiment's service, with one SNCO stating;

"while it may not have been a big deal to a lot of people, it meant a lot to me and the Sqn. I was deflated when the news came through that it was cancelled, but when I heard it in the distance, I was seriously proud to be stood on parade."

RAF Honington, RAF Odiham and especially all 27 Sqn RAF Regiment personnel would like to extend their thanks and gratitude to all members of 18 and 27 Sqn for going above and beyond to facilitate the commemorative flypast.



Chinook Detachment Mali

Royal British Legion Triathlon

During the week of 23-29 Aug 21, the men and women of the Op NEWCOMBE Chinook detachment took on the challenge of running, cycling and rowing the 4603km from their base in Mali back to RAF Odiham.

Organised by Flt Lt Flather of the Joint Helicopter Support Squadron (JHSS), the triathlon was held to mark three years of Chinook support to French operations in the Sahel, while concurrently raising funds for charity. Despite the operational tempo and temperatures of 45 deg C, 66 personnel from 18 Sqn RAF, JHSS, Tactical Supply Wing, 244 Sigs Sqn and many more individual augmentees from across Defence, pushed their

bodies to the limit to cover a staggering 4667km, raising £850 for the Royal British Legion. The award for the greatest distance covered by a single competitor went to Sapper Ghan (69 Gurkha Field Sqn (QGE)), with an individual contribution of almost 800km. Wg Cdr Sommers, the National Component Commander (CH-47) was presented with the cheque by Flt Lt Flather at a ceremony held in Gao on 11 Sep 21.





SLOANE
www.sloanehelicopters.com

sales
engineering
flight operations

Flying courses for professional pilot qualifications




Our helicopter flight training facilities enable us to offer beginner to refresher courses, right up to professional pilot qualifications. Courses include the **Instrument Rating Course, Flight Instructor Course, Commercial Pilot Licence, Private Pilot Licence** and many more...

For more information on what the Sloane Flying School can offer you, call now on +44(0)1604 790595 or email us at training@sloanehelicopters.com

THE LOCAL GARAGE SERVING YOUR COMMUNITY

20% Forces Discount on MOT's & Servicing



SERVICING




MOTS



TYRES & EXHAUSTS



CAR SALES



THE PLOUGH GARAGE

Mill Lane, Crondall, Farnham, Surrey GU10 5RP
 Telephone 01252 850460 www.theploughgarage.com
 We are on the A287 Farnham-Odiham road, next to M&S Simply Food



MAYHILL JUNIOR SCHOOL

CAMO DAY

Every year Mayhill Junior School in Odiham Village host a CAMO day.

This is an exciting way to get children thinking about the bravery and sacrifices made by members of our Armed Forces whilst raising money for SSAFA. The children aged between 7 and 11 years young from either civilian or military families are wholeheartedly encouraged to wear camouflage printed clothes or to create their own designs. They also are asked to donate a

little bit of money which goes to SSAFA charities. RAF Odiham support the day with serving members hosting stands, exhibiting military kit and also getting the children to participate in some drill.

Back in June I was approached by Mr May, Head Master of the junior school to see if I would go into the school to give a talk to 215 children about "Women in the Forces". Oh, my gosh, after 22 years

in the military the idea of this filled me with total dread.

So, what did I do?

I called upon 9 female friends of different trades and ranks from the RAF, Navy and Army.

If I was going to do this, then I wasn't

going to do it without support. We were given two 45 minute

assembly slots to brief to the lower and upper year groups. I

set about creating a "child friendly" exciting

power point presentation for all the ladies to upload photos to to hopefully promote their job roles.

It was unfortunate that on the day the upper year group and teachers were now all in isolation so they were tuned in to the assembly via ZOOM keenly listening in with their parents and actively engaging via the chat function.

Ladies representing all three services from MEDIC, ICT Tech, Fire Fighter, Air Traffic Control, Aircraft Technicians, Police and MT trades all spoke with gusto and passion showcasing their daily work, sport and achievements in their careers.

Our audience in the hall and via ZOOM were throwing so many questions at us engaging with enjoyment that we over ran our allotted time by an additional 35 minutes. This only adds to the fact that women can indeed talk. The highlight of the presentation was the Navy Police Officer handcuffing the headmaster which caused the whole school to erupt in to cheers and screams of excitement. Followed by even louder boos when he was subsequently released.

Our mission was to open the eyes of our young children to prove to them that women

do have a place in the military and more importantly can succeed. We 100% inspired our next generation of boys and girls.



RAF Odiham Motorcycle Club

During 2021 the RAF Odiham Motorcycle Club (OMCC) were lucky enough to run two Airfield Riding Days events which raised a considerable amount of monies for charity. Back in Jun, we hosted our first event with the same COVID mitigation measures that were put in place for Sep 20 event.



1 50 riders took part and with a team of 20 plus helpers and marshals, a thoroughly grand day out was had by all with no 'offs', especially pleasing as the newly laid runway was being used by the club for the first time!

These events take a considerable amount of time to organise and run, and without the help of various sections around the Station, they would not be able to take place. It's a long day, with committee members and volunteers turning up on the Friday evening to help set up the track and start to put the paddock tents and amenities in place. Saturday is an OMG early start having to have everything in place by 06:45 which is when the first of the riders start to arrive at the main gate.

Before the riders can go out on circuit, their bikes must be checked and noise tested to ensure they meet the 103dB limit. Riders go out in groups of 50, advanced, intermediates and lastly, beginners. On average, they get 3 x 20min sessions in the morning and 4 in the afternoon. Lunch is provided by Hasan, the local burger wagon, selling his foot-long heart busting all day breakfast burgers (paramedics are also on hand, for the riders and those that eat too much)!

Sep saw the second event of the year, but with slightly less COVID measures in that riders could bring their families and or helpers and park without allocated parking slots. Slowly but surely, outside events are returning to some kind of normality.

Oct saw a very successful Mopedathon run (albeit with a very foggy start). The OMCC fund this event, but all monies raised from those taking part is given to charity. Please see a separate article about it on the next page.

The club itself grew and grew this year with some 640 members, just over 20% of which are military. Although a commercial track day was run, no tours took place which we hope to remedy in 2022 with a tour of Scotland and tour of the Battlefields of France (Normandy and then the WWI battlefields).

In the summer we saw the return to our monthly meetings at the RAF Odiham Families Club where, on the first Wednesday of every month, the club holds a meeting with a subsidised bar. Next year we hope to go back to having guest speakers present at the meetings and another possible auto jumble.

December will see the annual toy run to the Children's Ward at Basingstoke Hospital, every year the club purchases £500 worth of toys for those unfortunate enough to be spending time during the Christmas period. In addition, the OMCC donated to the following charities this year...

- RAF Odiham Charities - £7000 (inc £1,500 to the Junior Ranks Mess)
- Kart Club - £2000
- British Psoriatic Arthritis Consortium - £1800
- Prostate Cancer UK - £1800
- Basingstoke Children's Hospital Toy Run £500

We could not do this without the amazing contributions of our committee members and volunteers. A lot of work goes on in the background of these events, and without the efforts of all our committee members, none of these could go ahead. Next year we are looking at holding more events and tours overseas (the club isn't just about ARD's). If you are interested in taking part, then please contact FS Gary Baker (gary.baker150@mod.gov.uk) or go to the website at www.omcc.co.uk





RAF VETERAN IS STILL CYCLING

15 MONTHS INTO FUNDRAISING CHALLENGE FOR SSAFA

A veteran from Hook in Hampshire has been cycling for over 15 months to raise money for SSAFA, the Armed Forces charity after they supported him when he was serving in the RAF.

RAF veteran and Boeing employee, Simon 'OB' O'Brien, has cycled over 3,000 miles since May 2020 with the aim to raise £5,000 for SSAFA, the Armed Forces charity.

OB began his epic fundraising endeavour in May last year and has since taken on a series of challenges across key military and Boeing sites. He has already raised over £3,000 for SSAFA, the Armed Forces charity, but has admitted that he won't stop cycling anytime soon.

He said: "I've always been an active cyclist and in May 2020, I decided to begin tracking my cycles to raise money for SSAFA. I initially set a fundraising goal of £1,000, but quickly increased this to £5,000."

Simon continued: "SSAFA provide a lifetime of support to the Armed Forces community, and this is a chance to give something back for their unfaltering support. For me, there isn't a reason to stop cycling or fundraising anytime soon – I'll continue to cycle for as long as the money keeps coming in!"

During his 34-year career in the Royal Air Force, Simon and his family were supported by SSAFA in a number of ways. "SSAFA was a comfort to me and my family. They were there to support us when we needed

them most. Firstly, at RAF Benson and then again at RAF Odiham to support the family through an illness. They provided us with invaluable support, including emotional and financial, that meant we had one less thing to worry about during some challenging times."

Simon currently works as the Lead Operations Analyst at Boeing's Portal in Hampshire after he joined the company in 2017. The former Helicopter Crewman returned to full-time reservist duty last year, when he was mobilised to support Joint Helicopter Command as part of the military's response to the Covid-19 crisis. "After my London to Brighton cycle-ride for SSAFA was cancelled in May 2020, I wanted to continue the support; SSAFA didn't stop for Covid-19 so neither did I. I've now cycled over 3,000 miles and this distance grows steadily, as does the amount raised through charitable donations."

Events for the remainder of 2021 include a confirmed place at the London-Brighton 55-mile cycle in September and a Lincolnshire 'Sprint' race over 90 miles in October. Simon's calendar for 2022 is progressing well, with a planned repeat of the military site routes he undertook in 2021, plus a place

in the UK's London-Paris cycle ride, all in support of SSAFA.

"If anyone would like to get involved with future cycling events or support with a charitable donation, please do visit my fundraising page. Any support you can provide makes a real difference."



To support Simon, visit <https://ssafa-boeing.enthuse.com/pf/simon-o-brien-cycle-for-ssafa-challenge-59b36-92472>

Boeing selected SSAFA as its UK charity partner in 2019. The relationship centres on the Boeing Emergency Fund, providing crisis support to current and ex-serving members and their families. Boeing also supports the SSAFA mentoring scheme; Boeing employees have volunteered as mentors assisting service leavers whose future employment options might have been directly affected by the pandemic.

To find out more about SSAFA, the Armed Forces charity, visit ssafa.org.uk



Compassionately
caring for you...

... in the comfort
of your own home.

Home Care in Farnham and the Surrounding Area

- Personal care
- Respite care
- Live-in care
- Dementia care
- Assistance with medication
- Shopping
- Meal preparation
- Domestic help

farnham@gacarers.co.uk

01252 239 090



www.gacarers.co.uk/farnham

Tim Corry and Alex Duncan have a strong bond and shared belief in 'service'. Both were Officers and Pilots in the Royal Air Force base at Odiham and have served on several overseas tours. They then took a career path as commercial pilots, but the 2020 pandemic made them think again. Tim Corry tells their story:

January reflections: Change For The Better

2020 has brought about big changes for Alex and me. Two former RAF pilots, and friends, who've regularly travelled a shared path, we've together decided to do something that, just a year ago, we could never have imaged: we are starting a Homecare company.

Happily, we're doing that as part of the Guardian Angel Carers franchise family. It's a pretty big shift on the surface. Still, we believe we have a wealth of transferrable skills and the excellent guidance and mentoring of our Franchisor, founder (two-times Olympian) Christina Bassadone and her fantastic team.

Over the next few months, I am going to chronicle our journey here. The ups and downs (excuse the pun) the trials and tribulations of starting a new business during a particularly extraordinary time.

Although we must admit to feeling a great deal of apprehension, we're equally buoyed by the fact that so many service leavers go on to run successful businesses. As Alex and I follow in their footsteps, we know that our tenacity will keep us going despite any challenges. We hope that ours will be a good news story!

So how did we get here? In short - the pandemic. Like many, we've seen our seemingly secure jobs evaporate or found ourselves furloughed in an enduring state of apprehension for what is to come.

During the first lockdown, the airline industry ground to a halt for us both. Not ones to sit still, we launched ourselves into volunteering to help our neighbours and community. It re-ignited a deep sense of purpose and value in us from helping others. Using the time to reflect, we realised that 'service' was in our DNA. It was our motivation.

With our jobs as commercial airline pilots in question - me on furlough and Alex facing redundancy - we started to



look at what else was out there. On leaving the RAF, we had only really considered flying, in the belief that's where our skills lay. However, an officer's role in the RAF is incredibly varied. We'd learnt skills and gained experiences that we'd taken for granted and missed.

Motivated, we started to look around for something that would use those skills and offer us that sense of purpose. When we found the world of Home Care, we realised we could combine the best of all our skills.

Lockdown was shining a bright light on this sector. One that typically did not get the appreciation it deserved. Now, its people were on the front line of our Nation's fight against the virus. It resonated with us both.

As we looked into the industry more deeply, we discovered more and more about it to inspire: the incredible work being done to treat dementia, the advances in enabling technology and preventative approaches to medicine and care. We wanted to be part of that.

This January, we've signed up to become proud owners of our Guardian Angel Carers Home Care business. We'll be welcoming clients from Farnham, Fleet and Farnborough - and all the villages in-between.

So far, we've been able to use all our skills on a bigger scale. It's been busy. We've created a business plan, secured finance, found new premises in Crondall for our clients and customers to visit, plus done our initial care training.

It's given us an even greater respect for those working in this industry, and as we two friends roll up our sleeves to take this path, we are honoured to be part of this industry, do something positive, and serve our community once more.



Domestic Cleaning



Companionship and Shopping



Tech Enabled Care



Visiting Care



Overnight Care



Live in Care

Looking for a new care opportunity? Join our family.

careers.gacarers.co.uk



RAF Odiham Netball Team

Triumphs at Inter-stations

After a long year with no events being held, things were finally starting to look up, with the RAF Odiham netball team competing in the Inter-station's championships in August.



© Irma Fischer at Shutterstock.com

The event was held at RAF Cosford, with a great turnout of 14 teams with over 130 players from across the UK being involved.

All teams gave a strong performance and it was great to see everyone who was involved in the day enjoy themselves. The RAF Odiham Netball Team put on an outstanding performance resulting in being unbeatable in every single match, getting crowned with 1st place in the Championship Cup, a massive accomplishment for the whole team. They performed brilliantly, with 8/10 players being selected for RAF Netball Squad. A special mention to Flt Lt Hannah Fray, for achieving the best centre court player and to Flt Lt Danni Greener, for winning the best defender during the tournament.

We'd like to add a big thank you to the RAF Netball Association for all their hard work in organising the whole event and for modifying things to keep everybody safe, by staying in-line with the Covid-19 regulations. The team look forward to participating in more events in the future, hoping to grow in both size and performance.

If you too would like to join the RAF Odiham netball team, please contact Fg Off Harriet Moxham OIC or Flt Lt Hannah Fray 2IC for more information.

FRAMEMAKERS

www.framemakersgalleries.com



- Bespoke Picture Framing
- Gallery - Limited Edition Prints & Original Paintings
- Ready Made Frames
- Sculptures

Military Discount on Bespoke Framing

FRAMEMAKERS, 15 WOTE STREET, BASINGSTOKE, HAMPSHIRE RG21 7NE

Tel 01256 840153

BRANCHES ALSO AT SALISBURY & MARLBOROUGH

M.E. HOWITT

Est. 1946

Leather Goods & Traditional Repair Workshop
M.E. Howitt is an established traditional family business.

We specialise in Barbour Clothing, Wellingtons and Slippers.
We stock Leather Goods & Gifts and offer a full range of Travel Luggage, Leather Handbags and Wallets/Purses.

We have a workshop on site to repair most leather items including handbags, saddlery, motorcycle outfits, and gloves.

Tel. 01420 83049

sandra@sandhow.f2s.com

www.mehowitt.co.uk

2-4 Turk St, Alton, Hampshire, GU34 1AG



- LANDSCAPING
- GROUNDS MAINTENANCE
- GARDEN SERVICES
- PLANTING SERVICES
- DECKING
- FENCING SERVICES
- HEDGE CUTTING
- TURFING SERVICES

Professional Landscapers
in Basingstoke

CALL 07834 474 520 FOR A FREE QUOTE

PREMIERGROUNDS@YAHOO.CO.UK | WWW.INTHEGARDENS.CO.UK

PITCH UP

10AM SUNDAYS



ALTON RFC

GIRLS AND BOYS
5YRS & ABOVE
COME AND PLAY RUGBY
AND MAKE NEW FRIENDS

FIRST SESSION IS FREE!



ALTON RFC
ANSTEY PARK
ALTON, GU34 2NB
WWW.ALTONRFC.CLUB

QUESTIONS? CONTACT: MATT ARROWSMITH
07717750035 / ARROWSMITHMATT@GMAIL.COM



Manchester Barton Aerodrome (EGCB)

Supporting military crews....

FREE landings for military
registered aircraft

FREE crew food

Pressurised Rotors Running
Refuelling

Available H24 with lit
landing area

4NM East of the Manchester
Low Level Corridor

Located in Class 'G' airspace

Helicopter Training Area with
sloping ground area

All offers, food and services subject to availability and change. Contact Ops for more information. Photo Martin Sharp



0161 789 1362 | ops@cityairportltd.co.uk
Barton Aerodrome, Liverpool Rd, Eccles, M30 7SA

City Airport

MH Manchester
Heliport

VOLANTEX RC

RC hobby world
Joysway



FREE UK delivery on selected lines

SHOP ONLINE TODAY



01603 419515

**Pegasus
Models**

Your Favourite Model Shop

Opening times:

Monday to Friday 09:00 17:30

Saturday 09:00 17:00

Sunday / Bank Holidays Closed

www.pegasusmodels.co.uk

Pegasus Models Ltd

88 Catton Grove

Road

Norwich

Norfolk

NR3 3AA

RAF Odiham Saddle Club

The year so far....

After a year dominated by Covid, RAF Odiham Saddle Club headed into a challenging year of eventing and competition. The team blew the dust off their saddles and quickly set the bar in the Inter-Station League with SAC(T) Liam O'Hara securing 2nd place and Cpl Stephen O'Leary in 4th place, giving RAF Odiham 3rd place overall in the League.

Shortly after-wards, the team were out representing the station at the RAF Equestrian Championships in September. The event was held at Arena UK in Lincolnshire with over 500 riders involved. The team performed brilliantly and rose to the occasion with a special honorary mention to SAC(T) Liam O'Hara, winning the Jack Tar Memorial trophy.

This was a huge accomplishment for Liam who had this to say in this BFBS News interview after the award presentation; *"I didn't expect anything like this from my first championships. I haven't been riding that long but it means an awful lot to win. I didn't meet Jack Tar, but it means a lot to me to have a trophy presented to me in his name and in his memory as well".*

It was a strong performance across the board for team Odiham at RAF Champs where CT David Moncrieff picked up 3rd place in the 70cm arena eventing and Sgt Kerry Norgate took a 2nd, 3rd and 4th in her dressage events.

For more information on learning to ride please contact the PEd Flt (x7297).





**Royal Air Force
Benevolent Fund**

BUILDING STRONGER FAMILIES

- It's our free **online platform** exclusively for RAF personnel and their partners.
- Covering a range of **self-directed topics** tailored to life in the RAF.
- The course can be **accessed anonymously**, either as a couple or separately.
- It aims to equip you with the **communication skills and strategies** to get the best out of your relationships.

We also provide relationship counselling and mediation support.

Find out more and register:
rafbf.relate.org.uk



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

An independent boarding school that's **enjoyable**, **safe** and **supportive**



Whole School Open day*
Saturday 29 January 2022

LVS
Ascot

A Co-educational Day & Boarding School
for young people aged 4 - 18

Register at: www.lvs.ascot.sch.uk/admissions/open-days

Discounts available to Armed Forces and Diplomatic families.

*Adhering to government guidelines
and the lockdown road map.





armed forces
FINANCIAL SERVICES

ESTABLISHED BY EX FORCES FOR THE FORCES

Fee Free Expert Independent Advice for Armed Forces & their Families:

-  **Military Mortgages, remortgages and Help to Buy Schemes**
-  **Full understanding of BFPO history & immediate consent to let**
-  **Fully independent whole of market advice**
-  **Ex Military Advisers**
-  **Protection & Insurance**



Get in touch

info@affs.co.uk | www.affs.co.uk

Armed Forces Financial Services is a trading name of TIMC Independent Financial Advisers Limited which is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority No 439451