



# LASER NEWS

Journal of the Air Cadet Headquarters London and South East Region



## Annual Camp Programme Resounding Success



Regional Commandant, flanked by CO Admin Wing meeting the RAF Coningsby Personnel

**Laser's 2005 camp programme has been declared a resounding success. From St Athan to Akrotiri, and from Cosford to Rheindahlen, cadets enjoyed an exciting and varied camp programme including flying, gilding, adventure training, target shooting and many other leisure activities.**

The annual programme supported by our parent service through 14 UK RAF Stations and 3 overseas bases covered the Easter, Summer and

Autumn periods. Many of the 50 annual camps even managed to get involved in local community goodwill projects. Every Camp Commandant reported on the high levels of success and particularly commented on the extraordinary support and commitment they received from the station staff. Despite the many operational constraints, Air Cadet Liaison teams ensured that every possible facility was made available to the cadets.

Over 1800 LASER cadets representing 27% of LASER's total cadet strength took up the camp

places. The camps were also supported by over 250 volunteer staff from LASER Region. The chance to see the RAF at work also afforded the cadets, work experience opportunities, many of which were relevant to their school education programme.

The Regional Commandant, Gp Capt Les Hakin, in his tour of the Summer camps, visited RAF Coningsby to meet and thank RAF personnel from all sections who were supporting the programme. He also took the opportunity to visit personnel in Fast Jet and Weapons Operational

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Evaluation Unit whose work includes the Eurofighter. Commenting on the year's success the Regional Commandant said, "I can't thank enough the station personnel for their enthusiastic support of the Air Cadets camp programme".

## RAF Uxbridge alive with The Sound of Music

**LASER's annual Band Competition took place at RAF Uxbridge in October 2005. 6 Bands totalling some 90 cadet musicians, from across the region, brought their combined skills into a highly competitive event. Independently judged by**

**the members of the Royal Corps of Music, the results were declared as follows;**

Full Band: 114 (Ruislip) Sqn  
Percussion: 86 (Heston & Isleworth) Sqn  
Fanfare: 135 (Reigate & Redhill) Sqn  
Ensemble: 2236 (Stanmore) Sqn  
Solo Bugler: Cdt Freeman 2316 (Sheppey) Sqn



Drill & Music in Supreme Harmony - 114 Ruislip Sqn Band



# Commandant's Christmas Message

2005 brought many high profile successes in the Region. Dacre Sword, Elworthy Trophy, to name but two. Many successes can be attributed to good teamwork. There is no shortage of good teams in L & SE Region. Our cadets also excel in many important activities within their communities, which is an excellent reflection of their citizenship training.

The activities of the ATC, despite RAF base closures and parent service manpower cuts; from gilding, and flying, through sports and adventure training



to the Duke of Edinburgh's Award all help to maintain the ATC as the UK's premier Youth Organisation.

The excellent personal qualities displayed by our air cadets is in no small measure due to the hardwork, devotion to duty,

dedication, example and loyalty of the Region's RAFVR(T) Officers, Adult NCOs, CIs and Civilian Committee members. Your training, discipline and leadership ensures that the cadets can realise their true potential. I commend you all.

I would also like to thank all LASER staff and cadets for their loyalty, support and hardwork during this last year.

May I close this short message by wishing all of you, and your loved ones, a Happy Christmas and a safe New Year.

### LASER

*L.Hakin OBE RAFR  
Regional Commandant*



1374 [East Barnet] Sqn ATC – getting on their bikes

## Middlesex Cadets Support Leukaemia Research

**Air cadets from 1374 [East Barnet] Sqn ATC recently completed a 25mile 'bike-a-thon' in aid of Leukaemia Research.**

After three hours in the saddle in the hills of North London and South Hertfordshire, the Cadets raised over £500 for the charity.

# New Officer Commanding for Middlesex Wing

**Wing Commander Ian Davison, took command of Middlesex Wing on 11th September 2005.**

He joins LASER after a tour of duty as Special Projects Officer with HQAC. His project work included the Air Cadet 2000, delivery phase of Defence 2000, HM Golden Jubilee Review at Portsmouth and as inaugural Camp Commandant role at Ramstein Air Base in 2004.

Wg Cdr Davison was commissioned into RAFVR(T) in 1978, after a successful cadet service, as Training Officer at 1075 (Camberley) Squadron Surrey Wing. Promoted directly to Flight Lieutenant in 1980, Wg Cdr Davison commanded, 1075

Squadron, 1268 (Haslemere) Sqn, 48F (Hampstead) and 2317 (Harlow) Sqn, after which he was seconded to Wing Staff to co-ordinate the then East Essex Wing's celebration of the Corps' Golden Jubilee in 1991. His other Staff duties included Gliding Liaison, and Corporate Communications.

Promoted to Squadron Leader in 1997, Wing Commander Davison assumed the duties of Deputy Wing Commander and overseeing the highly successful staff development programme. He was a Corps representative in the Royal British Legion Festival of Remembrance Muster at the Royal Albert Hall in 1982. He was awarded the Commandant's Commendation for "highly



*Wg Cdr Ian Davison*

meritorious service" (2000). Wing Commander Davison married Kim (nee Tunaley) in June 1984. They have one daughter, Helen.



# Sussex Air Cadets meet the Legend

**100 Sussex cadets and staff were recently invited to attend the International Festival of the Sea in Portsmouth by RAF Careers Office.**

Included in the contingent were cadets from 54 (Eastbourne)

Squadron, who had a memorable day, visiting the ships, exhibitions, combat displays and finding out more about Admiral Lord Nelson, who famously signalled his fleet the emotive words;

“ England expects every man to do his duty”



54(Eastbourne) Sqn members meet Lord Nelson at HMS Victory

# London honours it's finest

**Fifty London Wing Air Cadets took part in the commemorations to mark the 65th anniversary of the famous Battle of Britain and the unveiling of the capital's lasting memorial for the fallen.**

Following a service at Westminster Abbey the cadets attended the new Battle of Britain Memorial at Victoria embankment which was unveiled by HRH The Prince of Wales in the presence of The Duchess of Cornwall, Air Chief



Marshal Sir Jock Stirrup, Chief of the Air Staff and some seventy surviving Battle of Britain pilots. After the unveiling, Lord Tebbit, Honorary President of 27F (Chigwell) Squadron Air Cadets, escorted the Royal party to introduce some of the organisers, surviving aircrew and their families. The Royal Air Force marked the occasion with an inspiring flypast with the iconic Spitfire and Hurricane and a contrasting modern state-of-the-art Eurofighter.

London Air Cadets meet a Battle of Britain Veteran

# Sussex Wing Band at VE/VJ Day Celebrations

**Sussex Wing Band Master AWO Mike Jefferies had every reason to be proud.**

The Band participated in the Royal British Legion VE/VJ Day celebrations in Brighton on 2 July.

Led by Cadet Flight Sergeant Floyd, they took part in the Commemoration Service and the Massed Bands finale along with the Minden Band of the Queens



Division. There was also an opportunity for them to give what was an outstanding display of their musical and drill talents to an audience of veterans and local people, even joining in an impromptu boogie with a veteran to the music of the swing band Jives Aces.

Sussex Wing Band at Brighton's VE/VJ Celebrations



# Son Awards his Father's Cadet Forces Medal

Flt Lt Mel Reeve, currently serving as a Fighter Control Instructor at RAF Boulmer and an ex cadet of 308(Colchester) Sqn made a surprise visit to the Essex Wing camp at RAF Wittering to present his father Adult Warrant Officer Russ Reeve of 1207(Maldon) Sqn with his Cadet Forces Medal.



Reeve's family affair at Summer Camp – How cool is that?

AWO Reeve first joined 308 in 1991 as a Civilian Instructor shortly after his son joined as a Cadet, being appointed Adult Warrant Officer in Apr 92. AWO Reeve is used to the uniformed life as before joining the Corps

he was a member of REMETA. Presumably this was the time he developed a liking for field conditions as he has played a

significant part in Essex Wing's leadership and development camps for many years.

# LASER Wins London's RFCA Elworthy Competition



**241(Woodford) Squadron ATC won the 2005 Elworthy Trophy beating eight other teams.**

The trophy, awarded to the best tri-service cadet team participating in a weekend of gruelling competition including, 1st Aid, drill, confidence course, command tasks and orienteering took place at Pirbright. The presentation of the trophy was made by Brigadier Mark Dodson MBE Deputy Commander London District (Army)

LASER's 241(Woodford) Sqn receiving their winners' medals

# LASER Appoints First Hindu Adviser for Air Cadets

LASER has appointed the Corps first Hindu Adviser. Regional Commandant presented Dr Tanaji Acharya, a priest of the Hindu faith, with his certificate of appointment as Assistant Wing Chaplain of Middlesex Wing.

Dr Tanaji's Terms of Reference include a responsibility as Hindu adviser to the Region as well as to Middlesex Wing. Rev Christopher Miles, Regional Chaplain said, " Dr Tanaji is the first chaplain of a faith other than Christian to be appointed as a chaplain in the Air Cadets. We welcome him to work amongst us in the LASER Region."



Dr Tanaji Acharya receives his appointment From the Regional Commandant



## Sussex Cadets deploy at Shoreham Airshow 2005

Members of Sussex Wing yet again played a major part in the Shoreham Airshow. Seen as an opportunity to say thank you to RAFA for its support of the Air Cadets, such as Flying Scholarships, the two day Airshow also gives Sussex Wing the

opportunity to demonstrate what life as a volunteer and an air cadet is all about, by its discipline, organisation and "can do" attitude.

The ability to swap from helping to park cars, assisting members of the public, helping out in the VIP enclosures, competing in arena

displays and providing musical entertainment over the two days is down to the slick planning of an experienced team of adult leaders. The Sussex Air Cadets talked to many young visitors about all the opportunities available in Air



Sussex Wing Muster at Shoreham Air Show.

Training Corps. The staff also manned a Public Relations marquee exhibiting achievements in the form of recent photographs and posters.

## Royal Engagement for Shoreditch at the Malta Siege Memorial



Generation Mix! – Mr Baker, veteran of the Malta Siege meets 444 Sqn members

Air Cadets from 444 (Shoreditch) Squadron recently took part in a

memorial service to remember those involved in the Malta Siege.

The President of Malta, Dr. Edward Fenech Adami inaugurated the Malta Siege Memorial in Trinity Gardens in London an initiative of the George Cross Island Association (GCIA). His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh, Patron of the GCIA, later laid a wreath at the monument which was also attended by many dignitaries including the Maltese High Commissioner and civic dignitaries such as the Deputy Lieutenant of Tower Hamlets, the Lord Mayor of London, the Minister for Shipping, as well as

Ambassadors and High Commissioners representing the Allied Nations involved in the siege.

Cadet Flight Sergeant Vanessa Wade acted as a receiving guard for the Duke of Edinburgh, Commodore-in-Chief of the Air Cadet Organisation commented, 'I was really nervous! It is not everyday you get to meet a member of the Royal Family and certainly not something I would be doing if I wasn't an Air Cadet in 444 Squadron.'

## Long-distance for Lewisham

12 cadets from 1921 (Lewisham) Squadron have earned a well-earned rest after completing the annual Spitfire March in Folkstone!

On Sunday 29th May 12 cadets took part in the march, covering a route of 27 km (approx 17 miles). The walkers started at around 10am and finished at 4.45pm, a leisurely pace despite the pushing

encouragement from Cadet Sgt Neil Shand. One or two cadets were "old timers" however some had never walked that far before so it was a good group time. Despite this only small blisters were reported. In completing the walk the cadets raised sponsorship money for the Squadron - an estimated £400! Each cadet was awarded a medal and certificate on completion of the course.



The walking team: (From left to right) Back - Sgt Shand, Cpl Thring, Cdt Dixon, FIS Wheeler, Cdt Lane, Cdt Murphy B, Cdr Murphy N, Cdt Nixon Front - Cdt Partington, Cdt Lakhri, Cdt Cavendish



At our recent conference for Wing Chaplains in the Region, Padre Andrew Jolly,

who is both a full time RAF Chaplain and Middlesex Assistant Wing Chaplain,

was telling us about his experience in Iraq during the Summer. Like all military personnel, he wore body armour but, since chaplains do not bear arms, he had an armed escort when travelling off base. He lived and worked with those he was serving.

The chaplain's role especially, in an operational situation, is to be fully identified with those he or she serves. I recently had the privilege of joining a short-term volunteer team working with Mission Aviation Fellowship in Tanzania (reported below). We worked closely with people there, including when visiting a remote bush village sleeping on the earth in a mud brick hut.

If we wish to influence people for good we have to be fully identified with them. This is what God did in sending his Son, Jesus to this earth

in human form (incarnation), being born as a baby. He was born in a stable and often slept on the bare earth. He came as a 'servant-king'. This is an example for us all. We truly influence people by being involved with them, sharing in their joys and sorrows, seeking to serve others, not from a lofty height but by close identification with them.

At this Christmas season let us remember and pray for all who through duty are away from home including those serving with Mission Aviation Fellowship, those in the UK Armed Forces, especially in situations of danger like Iraq. Let us, ourselves, seek to follow the example of Jesus.

My prayer for you and your families is that you will have a truly blessed Christmas.

Rev Christopher Miles  
Region Chaplain

LASER

## Regional Padre's MAF trip to Tanzania

In the Summer issue of Laser News we reported that our Region Padre joined a team of 16 volunteers, with a variety of skills, to work with Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF) at their main operating base at

Dodoma, the capital of Tanzania in East Africa, for a period of three weeks.

On the team's arrival at Dodoma, and after a briefing weekend, the volunteers settle down to varied daily duties, which always started with prayers in the MAF hangar. The team tackled some planned

and some unexpected tasks. Such as stripping a Cessna 182 (4-seater) ready for a major overhaul, dealing with a grass fire on Dodoma airfield, re-decorating and refurbishing of new and older guesthouses. Our padre was responsible for all the wiring with an assistant from the team. Members of the team also visited an outreach location to see the support MAF renders to the medical work through a clinic in the area.

If you would like to know more about MAF's work in developing



Our Padre (Right) with other MAF volunteers

countries around the world, or for a full report of his African trip please contact Rev Christopher Miles by E mail: [cmiles@supanet.com](mailto:cmiles@supanet.com)

## Sussex Air Cadets Parade Through Chichester



Sussex Wing Banner Party

Sussex Wing Air Cadets, under the command of Wing Commander Martin Haswell paraded the Wing Banner through Chichester in July 05.

Over 200 cadets, Officers, Adult NCOs marched to Chichester Cathedral for a service led by the Sussex Wing Chaplain, The Reverend S Kersley. The parade, held only once every six years,

gives the opportunity for a Senior Officer to inspect and meet with staff and cadets. This year's honoured guests include Group Captain Les Hakin OBE, RAFR, Regional Commandant, for the London & South East Region Air Cadets, Councillor Richard Plowman, Mayor of Chichester and the Vice Lord Lieutenant of East Sussex - Mr Peter Field.

Wing Commander Haswell said,

"A great amount of hard work and preparation has gone into the parade today, my personal thanks to every single person involved. Sussex Wing is grateful to The Dean of Chichester, The Very Reverend Nicholas Frayling for making the Cathedral available to us and also to the people of Chichester for allowing us to parade our Banner through the town today."



## Three LASER Wings in the top ten in 2004/05 Gillan Trophy Competition

**LASER's Middlesex Wing was placed 3rd in the ACO's Gillan Competition.**

The trophy awarded annually to the best all-round "Sports Wing" in the ATC, was won by Merseyside Wing. However, Surrey and Kent Wings were also listed in the top-ten out of the

total of 36 Wings. The competition scoring is based on the attainment of highest number of points over the range of all ATC "approved sports"-made up of basic and honour points. The Commandant Air Cadets will shortly award a certificate of merit to Middlesex, Surrey and Kent Wings.

WING	Middlesex	Surrey	Kent	Sussex	London	Essex
Scores	505	475	450	295	275	265
Position	3rd	6th	8th	27th	30th	31st

## Michael does the loop and wins

**Cadet Michael Pickin of 2427 (Biggin Hill) Squadron won an aerobatic competition at Headcorn Airfield. Michael performed aerobatic manoeuvres including the loop and quarter clover to win the competition in September this year.**

His father is a flying Instructor and an Aerobatics Pilot at the Tiger Club

where young Michael is a member. He wants to join the RAF when he leaves the Air Cadets but as he is only 14, his father must fly with him until he is 17 and obtain his own private pilots licence.



*Cadet Michael Pickin – Reaching for the Stars!*

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- Editorial control retained by Regional Commandant LASER.
- All distribution inquiries to ACRHQ LASER. Next issue May 06 (submissions by 24 March 06)
- LASER News accepts no responsibility for unsolicited features, images, or products submitted.
- Views expressed in LASER News are not necessarily those of ACO, RAF or the MOD.
- LASER News is solely sponsored by Palladian Press of Colchester: www.palladianpress.biz

# Double Honour for a Music Master

**Flt Lt D Briant RAFVR (T) Rtd, formerly of 1312 (Southend on Sea) Sqn, was awarded the Regional Commandant's Certificate of Recognition which he received from OC Essex Wing.**

Flt Lt Briant also received an Air Cadet Music Services Shield from Sqn Ldr Peter Slaney, Corps Director of Music in recognition of his contribution to Air Cadet Music with 1312 Squadron.



Dave receives his Music Shield from the Corps Director of Music

# High Achievement for Bill

**Flight Lieutenant William Hunt, the LASER's Duke of Edinburgh Officer was awarded a City & Guilds degree in Youth Management and Training. Bill, who usually helps young Air Cadets achieve their Duke of Edinburgh Awards found himself in the receiving end of degree from the Duke of Westminster at a recent graduation ceremony.**

Commenting, on the first ever award within the Air Cadets, Bill said, "I am very pleased to be among the first in the ACO to be awarded this Diploma. It is rewarding that the work volunteer staff put into youth organisations can now be formally recognised".

The Duke, a Major General in the Territorial Army and an Assistant



Bill receives his Degree from the Duke of Westminster

Chief of the Defence Staff, paid tribute to Bill's outstanding work, particularly the contribution he made in the production of a Good

Practice Guide on Duke of Edinburgh Awards Scheme, which has been adapted by the Air Cadets Organisation.

# "Selfless" VR(T) Officer Recognised

**Flight Lieutenant Nick Weston, OC 2187 (Canvey Island) Squadron, has been recognised as one of the selfless volunteers of his local community.**

The Volunteer Awards, backed by the Borough Council and the Castle Point Association of Voluntary Services (CAVS), were presented at Runnymede Hall in Thundersley, Essex, in early June 05. Castle Point's Mayor, Cllr Godfrey, presented the main award to Flight Lieutenant Nick Weston, for his 18 years service in the Air Cadets. Nick's citation reads, "he has provided them, (the cadets), with countless opportunities to go flying, gliding, adventure training camps and expeditions overseas. He has run many leadership and teamwork



Mayor of Castle Point, Cllr Isaac with award winners including Flt Lt Nick Weston

courses for these young people and has by personal example encouraged them to actively help in the community. This has included fundraising for charities like the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal,

the Royal Air Forces Wings Appeal, Leukaemia and cancer trusts. Through his leadership many young people have been encouraged to follow a better route in life".