



1921 News



The Newsletter of 1921 (Lewisham) Squadron Air Cadets

Volume 1, Issue 1

Summer 2006

NEW NEWSLETTER!

Welcome to the redesigned Squadron newsletter! Although we regularly update our Squadron website – www.1921squadron.org.uk – we felt it was time to get in touch with everyone, whether they read our site or not. This edition of the newsletter is packed with a range of activities 1921 cadets have been involved with since the start of the year, and coincides with my first year as Officer Commanding.

The Squadron's packed schedule and continued existence is a credit to the staff and cadets who give of their time and effort, but also reflects the support given parents and friends of the Squadron. We hope you will continue to support the Squadron in 2006 and beyond, and have seen the benefits it has brought to the community. In the attached letter, the Squadron's Adjutant explains how that process is made easier for parents through Standing Order forms for payment of cadet subscriptions. Considerable savings can be made by switching over to standing order, and we hope you will take advantage of that.

It has been a good start to 2006, but I want more for 1921 (Lewisham) Squadron. We have the Inness Sword and Wing Drill competitions coming up, and lots more to look forward to in the rest of the year. We hope to start that process by gaining more recruits – if you know someone who could benefit from the opportunities of the Squadron, or has children who would like to join, please get in touch. I look forward to hearing from you.

Cadets, don't forget you can chat online securely with members of the Squadron and keep up to date with news and events at – www.groups.msn.com/1921Squadron

My first year has been an incredible start – I could not ask for a better group of colleagues and cadets to work with. I hope we continue to rise for years to come! *Per Flamma Exorior!*

Flt. Lt. Caroline Tracey,
Officer Commanding

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SQUADRON NEWS

STAFF NEWS

Recent visitors to the Squadron will have noticed a buzz of activity in the Office, as more staff are now on the Squadron than ever before.

Perhaps the most obvious change is that one member of staff now dresses in a uniform! Former Civilian Instructor David Preece has taken a Commission into the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve and becomes a Pilot Officer. This is the result of a lengthy process and several interviews. David now formally takes up his role as Squadron Adjutant, and continues to work as the Squadron Training Officer.

Elsewhere, Adult Warrant Officer John Ingram joins us to boost the non-commissioned staff. He has been involved with the ATC for five years, and brings a wealth of Adventure Training and outdoor experience to the Squadron. No doubt he will also get involved with drill and discipline, as befits his role! We are also joined by Mr. Mark Henrich. Mark has previously served as a cadet with No. 2 Overseas Squadron in Gibraltar, and hopes to get involved with all the Squadron's activities as a Civilian Instructor. For the first time in many years, the Squadron also has a chaplain. The Rev. David Fortune joins us to help with the welfare and development of cadets, as well as coaching squash.

Finally, after the sad news of Brigadier Samuels' death, Col Conrad Graham, the Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Lewisham, has kindly agreed to become the Squadron's Honorary President.

We welcome all our new staff to the Squadron.

NCO TEAM NEWS

A series of promotions have occurred since December's Annual Review. Changes at the top saw Cadet Sergeants Mike Chung and Neil Shand promoted to Flight Sergeant, in recognition of their extensive dedication and ability on Squadron. Danny Dixon – the Squadron's top cadet of 2005 – was promoted to Corporal early in the year, and again to Sergeant shortly after Easter. Together with Sgt Luke Adams, they make up the Squadron's Senior NCOs.



Joining Joe Thring on the Junior NCO team as Corporals were Charlotte Partington (pictured) and Ross Lakhrif. Charlotte and Ross were both promoted after lengthy evaluation by Squadron staff and senior NCOs as part of the Potential NCO Scheme designed by the NCOs. The success of the scheme was emphasised by the OC as promotions were made, and it was suggested that another scheme would run in September



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with a view to promoting cadets at the Annual Review in December.

NEW FACES ON PARADE

A series of new recruits have joined the Squadron since January. We enrolled ten new cadets in a ceremony in February, with further cadets joining since then. Those who have stayed have become fully involved with all elements of the Squadron life – flying, shooting, adventure training – and will continue to do so for years to come.



Unfortunately, some of our recruits have moved away, and we still want more cadets! If you know people who you think would like to join, please point them in our direction. We are currently looking to recruit for the summer, and hope to have a large Squadron again by December.

SQUADRON TRAINING

EXAM SUCCESSES

As part of their cadet life, cadets undertake examinations in a variety of aviation related subjects. These exams can lead to the award of BTEC qualifications – equivalent to 4 GCSEs!



The Squadron has had a successful year so far. All recruits have successfully passed their First Class cadet exam and drill test, with one or two gaining extremely high marks on the written paper. Cpl Lakhrif, Cdts Nixon and Lydon all gained Credits on their Leading Cadet examinations, with Cdts Barker, Butt, Duroj'aye, Furneval, Murphy, and Sgt Dixon passing comfortably.

Senior Cadet status was gained by Cadet Rees, with Cpl Partington passing with credit. Finally, Sgt Luke Adams celebrated gaining Staff Cadet status – involving two written examinations and an interview with Wing staff. Cpl Thring has passed his exams, and awaits the interview before he can get his lanyard. Well done to all the cadets.

LEARNING TO LEAD, IT'S A JUGGLING ACT!

Dealing with unexploded bombs in a minefield, building a self supporting weapon, and learning how to juggle – just some of the tasks facing cadets on the Leadership Day held on the Squadron on 27 May.

Run by the Squadron SNCOs, with assistance from staff, the leadership day was an ideal way to conclude the



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Squadron's "Potential NCO" Scheme that has been running for the past month.

The day gave cadets the opportunity to find out more about how an NCO must work, and some of the challenges posed by the role. They were taught how to command a drill squad, plan an exercise, and teach a class – before being given the chance to lead through a series of practical exercises. The exercises were assessed by the staff and SNCOs, who marked the cadets and gave feedback accordingly.

The leadership day comes ahead of planned promotions on the Squadron, but staff were keen to stress it was not a shortcut to promotion.

"The standards have been raised on the Squadron since we started the Potential NCO scheme", said Flt. Lt. Tracey at the end of a long day, "and we have seen that reflected in the cadets today. They can all be proud of what they have done, and they should have learned a lot – not only about what it takes to be an NCO, but also about how they perform when the pressure is on."

ADVENTURE TRAINING

TEAM PREPARE FOR ASSAULT ON INNESS SWORD (16-18 JUNE)

Sixteen cadets spent a weekend at Crowborough Camp, all hoping to be selected to represent the Squadron in the annual London Wing Inness Sword competition.

An eight strong team from each Squadron have to compete in a variety of demanding activities against 30 other Air Cadet Squadrons in London including first aid, speed march, the obstacle course (pictured), drill, shooting, orienteering and leadership tasks. The weekend gave cadets an insight in to what to expect in the competition, and offered staff and

team leaders a chance to see how the cadets rose to the challenge.

Our team this year will be Sgt Danny Dixon, Cpl Joe Thring (team captain), Cpl Ross Lakhrif, Cpl Charlotte Partington, Cdt Chris Jarman, Cdt Ben Murphy, Cdt Jen Nixon and Cdt Travis Sealey. The competition takes place in September, and we wish the team lots of luck!



TRI-WING TRAINER

Sixteen cadets and four staff from 1921 Squadron joined forces with Squadrons across three Wings this weekend on a packed weekend camp at St. Martin's Plain.

The cadets were undertaking training in the St. John's Young Lifesaver Award – a nationally recognised qualification in First Aid for young people aged 11 to 18 – as well as being put through their paces on the SA80 DCCT and 0.22 range, and participating in a night exercise which challenged their new First Aid skills.

The weekend will count towards their Duke of Edinburgh's Award, together with gaining them a new badge for the brassard. Well done to all the cadets!



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COMMUNITY

CALL ME SPITFIRE

13 cadets and 2 members of staff from 1921 Squadron Air Cadets have completed the annual Cadet Spitfire March on 28 May.

The March, now in its 38th year hosts participants from all over the UK by the various Cadet Forces as well as many foreign participants.

The arduous walk stretches for 24km over the beautiful (albeit hilly) countryside of Kent and luckily for the team the weather was stunning all day long.



All the cadets in the team completed the March taking 7 hours in total and raised money for the Squadron through sponsorship in the process!

Well done to all!

POPPY POWER

Cadets and staff of 1921 (Lewisham) Squadron are proud to announce that they raised £1228.87 for this year's Poppy Appeal!



The Poppy Appeal raises vital funds for the Royal British Legion so that they can give financial, social and emotional support to the millions of military personnel that have and are currently serving in the Armed Forces, nearly 10.5 million people!

Mr Ken Hull, a former National Service person and now Civilian Instructor with 1921 Squadron was out day and night with the cadets collecting and said of the achievement:

'As an ex-serviceman myself I cannot stress the importance of the work of The Royal British Legion. By doing this collection with the cadets we remind them of the importance of supporting those who have served and are serving on our behalf.'

SHOOTING

CADETS ON TARGET!

1921 shot an exhausting range of competitions in one day at 82 Squadron – but the tired arms proved worthy as the



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cadets took some of the best ATC places in the matches.

The Squadron placed 12th in the small bore target rifle competition, 13th in the small bore service rifle match, and an impressive 7th in the Air Rifle competition, despite not having shot before!

Congratulations to all of the team: FS Neil Shand, Sgt Luke Adams, Cpl Dixon, Cdt Ross Lakhrif, Kevin Rees, Ben Murphy, Charlotte Partington, and new shooter Cdt Chris Jarman.

SPORTS

1921 LADIES SCOOP BRONZE MEDALS!

1921 Squadrons ladies 5-a-side football competition beat stiff competition to come 3rd in London Wings annual event.

The competition is undoubtedly one of the most hotly contested of the year with 32 Squadrons vying to be the top dog!

We are also proud to announce that our very own Cadet Wain has been selected to represent London Wing in the Regional competition! Well done and we wish you luck!

With such a young team this year we are looking forward to next year's competition. Who knows, it could be our turn to lift the coveted London Wing 5-a-side competition trophy!

Want to help? We are always looking for funding opportunities and sponsorship! ☺

If you would like to be emailed a copy of this publication in future please send an email to info@1921squadron.org.uk

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Inness Sword Trainer
11th-13th August

Summer Camp: Brize Norton
19th-26th August

Wing Swimming Competition
2nd September

Wing Shoot
3rd September

Juvenile Diabetes Walk
10th September

Battle of Britain Parade
17th September

Wing Field Day
24th September

Inness Sword Competition
29th September – 1st October

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