

ARIES

The Magazine of RAF Shawbury

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SHAWBURY**

Edition 1
2024





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Editor's Welcome

By Sqn Ldr Tim Mason

Welcome to the first edition of Aries Magazine for 2024. I have been lucky enough to re-join RAF Shawbury in a Full Time Reservist role from September 2023 and so the features in this edition cover much of my new time on Station.

Having served at Shawbury a number of times over the years, I was naturally a little apprehensive as to whether the 'friendliest Station in the RAF' as I remembered it would be the same on return. I can say for sure that I had no need to worry – RAF Shawbury is as busy, vibrant, friendly and seamless in how everyone pulls together as it ever was. The article covering the award of the Firmin Sword is testament as to just how much the Unit gives across the communities of Shropshire and further afield. It was, therefore, a privilege to help organise the Station Christmas Carol Concert in St Chad's Church on 5th December. Having over 700 VIPs and members of the public attend this event is testament to how well we are supported



by our communities across the County and beyond. You will see the Concert in the Christmas Round Up article - I hope you enjoy this and all the articles in the Magazine.

I am really looking forward to meeting more people and promoting RAF Shawbury's stories in 2024.

FOREWORD

Foreword by Wing Commander Alan Jones MSc BSc IEng MIET MCMI RAF

A very warm welcome to Edition 1 of the Aries magazine for 2024.

Let me start by saying how honoured I am to graduate from Officer Commanding Base Support Wing to Station Commander at RAF Shawbury on transfer of the Station under the revised Command & Control 'Wittering' Model which happened on 20th December last year. Though there are still some transition aspects outstanding, the move has been seamless, and I would like to thank all for their support.

Having been at RAF Shawbury for a while, I already value the collective 'Whole Force' contribution to the rich tapestry that is the Station and note that we punch well above our weight. That said, I do not underestimate at all levels the hard work, dedication, and humour necessary to maintain the Station's collective sense of purpose in delivering Defence Air Operations/Helicopter Crew training, and enhancing Defence, the RAF's, and the Unit's reputation with the local community. I thank you all for this and ask that you continue your collective efforts in this regard and in ensuring Shawbury continues to be a great place to work.

Looking ahead, tempo is unlikely to reduce in the short term as there are more challenges to come as Defence

continues to re-orientate itself to deal with a more volatile and contested World. Consequently, the Chief of the Air Staff has designated his five directives (Agile Combat Employment, Astra, Optimise, People, and Infra) to underpin our ability to fly and fight. As with all Units, RAF Shawbury will play an important part in delivering such objectives for Defence and we all need to ensure we understand these and that our efforts align with these priorities and intent. As always, I know RAF Shawbury personnel will deliver and seek ways to continually improve processes, but we must all be cognisant of overstretch and I ask all to be vigilant in identifying, addressing locally, or elevating issues of concern/frustration. Additionally, I invite all to lean in to exploit the unique Force Development, Adventurous Training, sport, and other opportunities that promote leadership and teamwork, as well as enabling individuals to de-stress and simply to have fun.

The support and contribution of families and friends to enable Shawbury outputs cannot be understated – so a big thank you to you all. You can be assured that I am also very focussed on maintaining a vibrant Community including youth provision. So please participate and provide feedback to Gail and the Community Support Team on the services provided. I know housing remains a major frustration but please be assured that the Community



Support Staff and I am engaging regularly to drive action on this aspect.

You may be aware that there are quite a few major changes/projects that will be implemented at Shawbury this year. This includes a major refurbishment of the Airfield (Apr) 24 and work to deliver our role in Agile Combat employment (ACE). You can be assured that I will keep you informed of progress on such changes and others that will inevitably come.

Finally, as part of your Defence journey, I wish you and your family an enjoyable, productive and safe time at Shawbury.

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RAF Shawbury Christmas Round-up



Santas emerging from the winter dawn gloom

The run-up to Christmas is always a busy time for the Station and 2023 was certainly no different. As well as a very successful Veterans' and Senior Citizens' Christmas Lunch and raising money for RAFA through enthusiastic Santa Runs, we were delighted to add two events this year aimed at providing something special to Shropshire communities and young people.



Above: Santa arriving by Juno helicopter at the Princess Royal Hospital in Telford



Serving Christmas dinners at the Veterans' and Senior Citizens' Christmas Lunch



The annual Santa Run raises money for RAFA



The Band of the Royal Air Force Regiment provided an outstanding display of music at the inaugural RAF Shawbury Christmas Carol Concert.



The acoustics provided by St Chad's Church proved to be the perfect venue

The first was a Christmas Carol Concert on 5th December in St Chad's Church, Shrewsbury. The Band of the Royal Air Force Regiment put on a stunning display of music for the 750 VIP guests and members of the public who attended. St Mary's Primary School Choir from Shawbury also sang a lovely version of Love Shone Down and provided great readers to support our own Service and Civil Service readers and our own soloist, Squadron Leader Andy Smailes.

On 12th December, Number 1 Flying Training School were privileged to give Santa a very special flight in one of our Jupiter helicopters. He overflew 16 Primary Schools across Shropshire, waving to the waiting children on the way, before landing at the Princess Royal Hospital, Telford. Here he was greeted by lots of excited children and parents at the Hospital's HeliPad, before visiting the Children's Ward to give out presents. There were also some larger presents for the Ward donated through RAF Shawbury collections which will help entertaining children and with the fantastic work which the Ward does all year round for the County.



Above: Veterans enjoying their Christmas Lunch afternoon

Below: There were larger presents which will provide year round entertainment for all childrens' stays on the ward



Santa giving out presents to young people who were on the Shropshire Children's Ward over Christmas



Rapid Air Land Training Exercise PEGASUS CLOVER

In December, RAF Shawbury Operations Wing supported Rapid Air Land Training, with 30 Squadron A400M and personnel from 16 Air Assault Brigade based at Colchester and 1 Royal Irish Regiment from Tern Hill, on the airfield at RAF Shawbury. This is an example of Agile Combat Employment allowing UK Armed Forces to react swiftly and flexibly in differing locations. In addition, it exposed Air Operations personnel based at Shawbury to interoperability with the Army and other Units.



A Jackal vehicle reversed onto the A400M

Sqn Ldr Huntley, SO2 Air, HQ 16 Air Assault Brigade, said:

“The tactical air activity conducted during Exercise PEGASUS CLOVER was extremely invaluable to all involved but particularly for the soldiers who had never seen, let alone, flown in an A400M before.

To the untrained eye, the activity appears to be relatively straight forward; however, air manoeuvre is complex and requires detailed planning by multiple stakeholders with dedicated training pathways to ensure that all the activity was conducted in a safe environment. This time round was no different with conversations beginning at the start of last summer



Air Movements personnel direct the Jackal into position on the A400M



Exercise complete, the Jackal drives away from the aircraft

and continuing over a number of months to pull together what in the end was a unique day for both the Station and 1 R Irish. Nothing beats doing it on a real aircraft.”

For the 16 Air Assault Brigade Combat Team, Exercise PEGASUS CLOVER provided a fantastic opportunity for the latest unit to join, 1 Royal Irish (1 RI) who are based at Tern Hill, to test their skills on how to embark and disembark vehicles and troops at pace and scale safely. For the RAF it demonstrated perfectly the Agile Combat Employment of the A400M and critical enablers such as Air Movement Teams from Air Mobility Wing to operate away from RAF Brize Norton.

Major Hazlett, Officer Commanding C (Ranger) Company, said:

“The light reconnaissance strike role is ‘defined by mobility’.

We must have the mobility to get our troops and vehicles anywhere in the world by air, to then use our mobility on the ground to achieve the mission. On an operation, we would be the first troops mounted in vehicles to arrive on an airfield that has been captured by a parachute or helicopter assault. Our role is to then push out to secure and expand that foothold.

We’ve been developing the concept and skills that we need for a few years,

mostly through practising our ground role, and this training is about the next stage and building up our air mobility skills.”

Lance Corporal Allen, a Jackal commander in 1 Royal Irish’s Machine Gun Platoon said:

“It’s been a good challenge to take on this new role. We’ve changed vehicles from Husky to Jackal, adapted what we know and learnt new skills.

This is the first time we’ve taken our vehicles on and off aircraft tactically, and initially there were some nerves backing up the ramp onto the aircraft because it’s a tight fit!”



Royal Irish troops disembark from the A400M Atlas aircraft

Chief of the Air Staff Presents RAF Shawbury with the Firmin Sword of Peace

On 7th December, Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Sir Rich Knighton presented the Firmin Sword of Peace to the Station Commander, Group Captain Andy Baron.

The award is given to units or establishments of the British Armed Forces judged to have made, "the most valuable contribution to humanitarian activities by establishing good and friendly relations with the inhabitants of any community at home or overseas".

RAF Shawbury's submission for 2022 covered the significant engagement activity which the Station conducts across Shropshire and further afield. Two achievements stood out to the Awarding Committee. The first was the Station's youth engagement through Cadet Forces and Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) outreach. Secondly the Taking Football to Africa and Beyond Appeal operated from RAF Shawbury since 2006 who via "aid through football" collect donated items of football kit then redistribute them to children and adults across the globe. Almost 37,000 items, including 8,800 football shirts, training kit and school uniform, were distributed to disadvantaged communities in 2022 alone. Since its inception the charity has delivered over 298,000 items of kit to 59 countries worldwide.

At the Ceremony, the Chief of the Air Staff said, "The award of the Firmin Sword of Peace for the year 2022 to RAF Shawbury recognises the tremendous efforts of the Whole Force in its humanitarian activities and exceptional engagement with its local community and far beyond. Shawbury continues to consistently deliver superb community, youth and veteran engagement,

defying its size as one of our smaller RAF Stations. It is a superb Unit with a massive heart and enduring drive to maintain its superb community relations."

During 2022, RAF Shawbury raised a total of £18,712 for charities, and station personnel played a key role in the Shrewsbury Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal in November 22, helping to raise £15,149. The Station outreach programme saw STEM Ambassadors and Community Support Teams work closely with Shropshire Council and local businesses to support the Armed Forces Covenant and the thriving Shropshire Veterans' Outreach Programme.

The award was received on behalf of RAF Shawbury by the Station Commander, Group Captain Andy Baron who said: "It is an incredible privilege to accept the Firmin Sword of Peace award on behalf of all at RAF Shawbury. While recognised for their youth engagement, relations fostered by station personnel have been inclusive and widespread; people of all ages both locally and overseas have benefitted and all the while the personnel developed new friendships and associations promoting RAF Shawbury and the wider Armed Forces."



Chief of the Air Staff Sir Rich Knighton KCB ADC FREng RAF presents the Firmin Sword of Peace to the Station Commander Group Captain Andy Baron BEng MA MSc RAF



The work of the Charity Taking Football to Africa and Beyond stood out to the Awarding Committee



Community Projects delivered by RAF Shawbury students plays a major role in our local community engagement.



RAF Shawbury's Be Seen Be Safer campaign is key to how we operate helicopters across Shropshire whilst keeping communities and people safe.

First Solos

Congratulations to three recent first solos at the RAF Shawbury Gliding Club

Firstly, to Richard Head on conversion to the club K18 aircraft. For Richard, an ex-Vulcan pilot and an ex-helicopter instructor at Shawbury, this was the first single seat aircraft he had flown in a long RAF career – dogged determination comes to mind.

Next to Flying Officer Chris Rust on being sent solo by Chief Flying Instructor (CFI) Ian Gallacher. Chris is a trainee on the Weapons Foundation Course at RAF Shawbury.

Flying Officer George Kenny has also been sent solo by Instructor Will Dean. George rearranged his Boxing Day celebrations to go flying and has now



Richard Head being congratulated by CFI Ian Gallacher.



CFI Ian Gallacher congratulates Chris Rust

commenced Phase 2 flying training at RAF Cranwell.

Chief Flying Instructor at RAF Shawbury Gliding Club.

It was a super day for Darcey Gallacher, aged 14, after Instructor Will Dean sent her for her first solo flight in a glider, a magnificent achievement. Darcey, who attends Newport Girls High School is the youngest ever pilot sent solo in the long history of RAF Shawbury Gliding Club or its antecedents at RAF Cosford. What made this solo flight of greater interest is that she was towed to her release height by Dad, Ian, the

At the end of the flight Darcey said, "I couldn't believe it when Will stepped out of the cockpit and told me I was on my own. I realised there was no going back!" During her training Darcey accumulated over six hours of dual instruction and could often be seen looping-the-loop with Dad Ian in the skies above RAF Shawbury. Her ambition now is to undertake a glider aerobatics course.



George Kenny congratulated by Will Dean.

Pictured below: Darcey with Instructor Will Dean



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Chief of the Air Staff Reviews No. 1 Flying Training School Graduation

Royal Navy, Royal Air Force and Luftwaffe graduates with Chief of the Air Staff and Luftwaffe Director of Flying Operations.



UK and German personnel from the Royal Navy, Royal Air Force, Army and Luftwaffe graduated from No. 1 Flying Training School on 7 December. The Reviewing Officer was Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Sir Richard Knighton KCB FREng RAF, with Luftwaffe Director of Flying Operations Brigadier General Frank Best.



Army graduates with Chief of the Air Staff and OC 670 Sqn AAC



Royal Marine and Royal Air Force Rearcrew graduates with Chief of the Air Staff

Exercise PEGASUS WARRIOR

Wasting no time as the calendars ticked over to 2024, 670 Squadron Army Air Corps hit the ground (or air) running with a deployment on the infamous Exercise PEGASUS WARRIOR (Ex PW).

Having been back at work for only 3 days, staff and trainee pilots from course 430-020 deployed down to Middle Wallop – the home of the Army Air Corps. Ex PW (or TACEX as its otherwise known) represents the culmination of not just the Operational Training Phase, but the whole of the Army Pilots Course. Viewed as a rite of passage, the exercise has existed under various names but is one that every British Army helicopter pilot must complete. Rightly so, it is the last major hurdle before the awarding of the prestigious Army Flying Badge, or 'wings'. Each trainee has come a long way before reaching this point, progressing from learning to (simply) hold the helicopter in a hover all the way to commanding a complex 2-ship patrol, both at day and night, operating down to ground level. This is crucial training and the bar is set high – it's vital that these newly trained aircrew are of the right quality and calibre to progress to their front-line roles in support of UK Defence.

The start of this iteration of Ex PW saw the trainees fly a 'deployment' sortie from RAF Shawbury down to Middle Wallop. This tested their navigation skills and captaincy, transiting at both medium-level and at 100ft. To further test their flexibility and capacity, diversions were issued once airborne. This required them to re-plan on the move and prioritise resource, all against the backdrop of a combat scenario with a simulated enemy threat.

Once established at Forward Operating Base (FOB) Middle Wallop, the trainees had three missions to complete. Firstly, they had to find the enemy. To do this they were given a target box on a map based on current intelligence, some preliminary routing and a time window. The rest was up to them, and with 90 minutes to plan, they had to move fast. The course standard is 3 hours from issue of the task to the helicopters lifting on mission – not a lot of time. To get to the target area the patrol must fly through a transit corridor between 250-100ft above ground and into a holding area behind cover. From there, the designated Mission Commander controls tactical movement, down to as low as 10ft, towards pre-determined battle positions. These positions are



The patrol gets airborne for the 1st mission

used to observe the target area using the MX-10 camera attached to the aircraft. The trick is to get close enough with the camera to identify targets, but far enough away that the aircraft is not seen or heard. The weather conditions play a big part here, and the trainees must consider the effects of the wind, sun position, cloud cover, air moisture content, and more, to maximise their chances of seeing the target. To keep them busy, the trainees must also relay information to simulated players on the radio, played by the instructors.

This first mission was to identify targets on an A road south of Warminster. The patrol managed to find the area but with undulating terrain and a shallow viewing angle they could only observe a small portion of the road. At the pre-planned time, and having sighted a small number of simulated vehicles, the patrol recovered to the FOB. It was not over yet, however, with the trainees having to report back to the Intelligence Officer. Like in real life, the combat scenario is fluid, with certain aspects of the next mission being driven by decisions made in the previous one. This kind of immersive training helps the trainees connect with the scenario and see direct results of their actions.

Mission 2 was similar to the first, this time to a different area. Here they needed to maintain 'eyes-on' to the target area for longer now that the simulated enemy force had pushed closer to friendly lines. This further

tested the trainees' time calculations and fuel planning, whilst also adding pressure in the form of more airborne re-tasking onto Salisbury Plain Training Area.

The third and final mission saw the complexity ramp up, with the trainees being asked to get into battle positions and set up for an artillery fire mission, all based on a 'time-of-impact'. This meant their timings had to be watertight, even factoring in the time-of-flight of the artillery round. To make things more difficult, the patrol were asked to 'handover' the battle to another patrol mid-mission to ensure an enduring target effect was achieved. This required a large amount of planning and coordination, especially regarding contingency planning. Handover complete, the patrol set off for the FOB, but it was not over yet. After coming under enemy fire, our aircraft suffered a simulated engine failure (replicated by the helicopter's single engine training function) and the pilot become incapacitated. This left the trainee to negotiate relatively complex and unfamiliar airspace, radios, navigation and checks to get back to the FOB safely. Quite a leap from their first hovering sortie...

The trainees of course 430-020 all successfully completed Ex PW and will be receiving their wings during their graduation in May 24.

Captain Jonny Riley
– 670 Squadron Army Air Corps
Image courtesy of Ben Collar

DCASO Dits

The Defence College of Air and Space Operations (DCASO) are continuously improving our courses and one course, in particular, has been through a review during 2023. After much work from the Joint Air Traffic Control Course (JATCC) review team, DCASO invited the Senior Air Traffic Control Officers (SATCOs) from around the UK to RAF Shawbury to inform them of the review findings and the planned implementation of the new course. The JATCC Transform team now have 12 months to design the new course, ready for implementation in the first quarter of 2025 - an exciting time ahead for DCASO ensuring we stay current with industry best practices and advancing the training of our personnel. Furthermore, DCASO has graduated a further four courses, supported the Station with the Remembrance Parade with our newly qualified Drill Instructors and assisted with RAF Shawbury's very first Christmas Carol Service at St Chads Church.

AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL TRAINING SQUADRON (ATCTS)

Since returning from the Christmas break, ATCTS have hit the ground running when it comes to helping people. Charity work is always being undertaken by the ATCTS team and this was evident recently with Mrs Simpson. Mrs Simpson is currently raising money for Lottie's Way, completing 5k every day in January. The team are continuing this support until the end of 2024 and have so far raised over £6k for the underprivileged children and adults' charitable cause! Continuing in this vein, Flt Lt Crosthwaite held a 'Brew with Us' event in the Aries Club fundraising and raising awareness for the Samaritans Charity. The event showcased the Samaritans and allowed people from all walks of life to sit and have a relaxed brew and a chat. FS Anson had a welcome back after returning from a 4-month deployment to Mount Pleasant ATC in the Falkland Islands. Dan was unfortunate to be on the tiny islands during the colder months, however he ensured that the morale of the troops remained as high by baking cakes. Miraculously no one had food poisoning after this kind gesture, which resulted in Dan being asked again and again for his 'Great British Bake Off' talents to be used to break the big freeze!



Big Brew for Samaritans

Shortly after Christmas, the trainees of the Joint Air Traffic Control Course No 464, along with some trainees from the Flight Operations Training Course No3, undertook community work at St Mary's Primary School in Shawbury village. Some of the tasks outlined by the Headteacher were removing dormant plant beds, fixing playground equipment, relaying the felt roof of the Wendy house and making palette benches. With everyone in good spirits, the trainees split into smaller groups to tackle certain areas of the grounds and by lunchtime they had filled a whole skip! The children were keen to watch the workers from the classroom windows. One of the more challenging tasks was assembling the palette benches. With varied abilities of DIY between them, and with the trusty toolkit of the Course Commander Flt Lt Taylor, the job was completed seamlessly whilst destroying a fair few drill bits in the process! Two palette benches were fully equipped with optional extras, including arm rests! The team were very humble with their sense of accomplishment.



Dan's Big bake!



FOTC 3 community project



JATCC 464 community project at St Mary's School



JATCC 464 community project team

The Headteacher was very appreciative of the work ethic and commitment that the trainees delivered on the day. Their work was invaluable to the maintenance and upkeep of the schools' surroundings. Overall, a very productive day and a fantastic opportunity for the courses to offer their support to the local community.

AIR AND SPACE OPERATIONS TRAINING SQUADRON (ASOTS)

We are deep in the darkest throes of winter but the train that is 'ASOTS' keeps steaming ahead. With ASOSC 12 departing us for pastures new we wish them all the very best at their first postings.

ASOSC 12 assisted with some fabulous community projects whilst with us on ASOTS, visiting the local Care Home and assisting the Station with the Christmas Carol Service at St Chads. FOTC 3 have also left the squadron but made a lasting impression on us taking part in the local community project at St Mary's school along with JATCC 464. We also wish all FOTC 3 graduates well with their future endeavours and thank them for all their contributions whilst at Shawbury. ASOSC 13 will soon be the only course in house, offering us a brief respite after a particularly busy December and January that was thankfully interspersed with festive frivolities over Christmas and New Year, allowing all personnel to enjoy some much earned down time.

Sgt Pepper and Cpl Hammon are



FOTC 3 community project at St Mary's School

the latest strings to the bow that is ASOTS, very quickly settling in and taking no time at all in getting to know everyone. December saw the departure of FS and Sgt Lee, leaving us for Whitby and rural RAF Fylingdales. Cpl Croker also departed ASOTS on promotion, swapping the west for a much flatter east of England in the form of RAF Coningsby. We wish all of those departing ASOTS the very best for whatever the future may bring.

ASSURANCE SQUADRON

There have been many reasons to celebrate this period within Assurance Sqn, two of which have been to congratulate FS Watkins and WO Jackson on the birth of their new children. Although looking forward to welcoming them back, the squadron couldn't be more pleased for them both. Further congratulations are due to WO Morley who has been awarded an Air Officer Commendation No. 22 Group Commendation, which was well deserved and is a huge achievement that the squadron is very proud of. FS Newby has been away for three weeks attending the Drill Instructors' (DI) course at RAF Halton adding another member to DCASO's list of growing DIs. Innovations has been at two thirds of its capacity and we have missed him but wish him all the best of luck on the course. With

the absences across the squadron, Sgt Beagley was asked to step up into a FS role and has taken the extra responsibilities and more well within his stride. Well done FS Beagley you should be justifiably proud!

Assurance have been very busy, as always, with the standard operations of the squadron. However, the whole squadron took on the additional task of painting the newly appointed JATCC review classroom with the help of some of the DCASO executives. The new light blue colouring helps to modernise the classroom and make it an improved learning space. Many of the squadron also took some well-deserved time to socialise at the DCASO Christmas function, organised by Cpl Brown, at the Loopy Shrew, a fitting location to start the Christmas grant.

AEROSPACE BATTLE MANAGEMENT TRAINING SQUADRON (ABMTS)

The past three months have been very busy for ABMTS with many charity events, exercises and courses. Mission Support Flight (MSF), Control Training Flight (CTF) and Surveillance Training Flight (STF) have seen quite a few personnel depart on detachment to Operation SHADER - we hope they get a chance to enjoy the sunny weather whilst working hard to support our coalition partners. Two personnel from MSF were selected to take part in Ex Virtual Flag in Albuquerque; AS 1's McGeachy and Collings took part in the exercise working in conjunction with a variety of countries from across the globe. Flt Lts Furlong, Guthrie, Perks and Fg Off Isaac participated in the 5k Santa Fun Run for charity in December - the unpredictable weather saw several wet Santa's complete the run and we thank them all for their efforts keeping up with the annual tradition.

We say goodbye to FS Wright, who completed his last day in work and will be leaving the service to start his career as an Air Traffic Controller in Cornwall and to Sgt Mitchell who exited the RAF in January after an amazing 22 years' service. We would like to say thank you to both individuals for their support to the trainees and the training team whilst at Shawbury and wish them the very best in the future. ABMTS have seen Fg Off Hillier promoted to Flt Lt and FS Troy Hamm promoted to WO - congratulations to you both and we welcome Fg Off Isaac and Sgt Bland to the squadron who are our new arrivals! Flt Lt Hobbs, along with OC DCASO, is taking part in Force Development participating in Cresta ice sport so we are hoping for some trophy wins from them both!

The DCASO Diarists

Exchange Programme Long Look Australia

From August to November 2023 I was fortunate to be deployed to Australia as part of Exchange Programme Long Look (EXPLL). EXPLL is an ongoing exchange programme between the UK and Australian/New Zealand armed forces where participants can spend time working with their foreign counterparts to explore and understand their ways of working.

After a few days of travelling I arrived at the School of Air Traffic Control (SATC) at RAAF Base East Sale in the state of Victoria, a few hours north east of Melbourne. My first port of call was to attend an air traffic course graduation dinner, a great way to get to meet



Squadron Leader Hughes (ex RAF), Flight Lieutenant Wares, Warrant Office Penrice, Squadron Leader Parker (ex RAF) and Flight Lieutenant Ball (ex RAF)

people, and I was surprised at the number of ex RAF air traffic controllers that have made the move across to the RAAF. During my time at SATC I explored how they deliver training to their prospective air traffic controllers with a view of looking at ways we could develop the training delivered at DCASO. I shadowed ab initio training of air traffic controllers, a post graduate course teaching radar approach control and further courses teaching future supervisors and training officers. I spent time at the Air Mission Training School where all candidates for aviation related roles, such as air traffic controller, weapons controller and weapons systems operators, are put through a 12 week course testing aptitude and ability to process and retain information in a

short time frame, amongst other things, and then are streamed for the role which they are suited to.

A weekend in Melbourne included visiting the spectacular Remembrance Shrine and attending an Australian rules football (AFL) match, trying my hardest not to protest 'this is not football!' and get my head around the rules. I also had the opportunity to take part in Adventurous Training in the form of high ropes at 'Tree Top Adventures', an activity that is part of the ATC basic course to promote team cohesion and build resilience. Next stop was RAAF Base Williamtown in Newcastle, New South Wales, home to the Surveillance and Control Training Unit (SACTU). SACTU is responsible for training



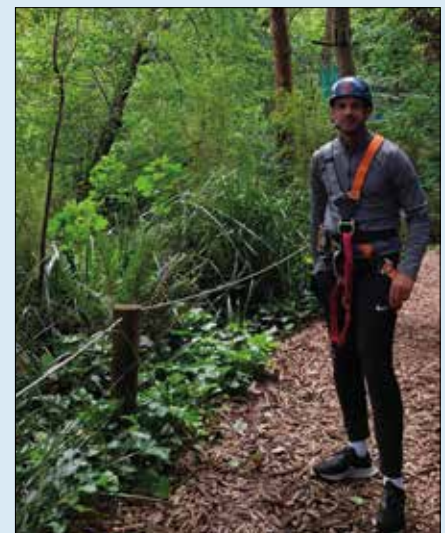
Warrant Office Penrice with Wing Commander Clarke CO of the School of Air Traffic Control



At the Memorial of Remembrance. Melbourne



Sightseeing in Melbourne



High Ropes in Melbourne



Memorial of Remembrance. Melbourne



Surveillance and Control Training Unit, RAAF Base Williamtown

Weapons Controllers and Surveillance Operators and I had the opportunity to shadow training lessons, observe debriefs and multi-crew simulator sessions replicating missions involving up to 40 aircraft, assessing how well personnel work as a team and assist aircrew in achieving their objectives. I also spent time at 2 Squadron, where RAF personnel are currently undergoing conversion training on to the E-7 Wedgetail, the replacement for the E-3 Sentry. Here I gained an insight into what extra capabilities will be gained when the aircraft is providing airborne

surveillance and control services on behalf of the RAF and NATO when it comes into RAF service in the not too distant future. A brief visit to the Air Traffic Control Tower allowed me to witness the lessons taught at SATC being put into action on the front line at a co-located military and civilian airfield, where F-35s and F-18s would be integrating with civilian airlines Boeing 737s and Airbus 320s on a regular basis, a concept unfamiliar to RAF controllers.

Finally, a long weekend in Sydney allowed me to see the sights and spend

a winter's day on Bondi Beach in 35 degree C heat.

Overall, my EXPLL experience was a fantastic opportunity to develop myself both personally and professionally. Another great example of one of the benefits of being in the RAF, it gave me the chance to draw inspiration from the RAAF and to possibly adopt some of their training techniques at DCASO as we are always looking at ways to improve what we do.

Warrant Officer Steve Penrice

Sydney Opera House



FA Disability Talent Pathway Team Visit

The ATC Training Squadron on DCASO had the pleasure and privilege of hosting the English Football Association Disability Talent Pathway Team on 30 November and 1 December.

After being graciously hosted by the FA in June at the Disability Football finals, Sqn Ldr Scott Boland (OC ATCTS) was fascinated by the skills on display in the different games and inspired by the players' journey through adversity to the elite level of their sport. A large part of that fascination came from the different and nuanced methods of communication used by the players and coaching staff. With an already established special relationship between the FA and RAF Shawbury formed through the bonds created by Wg Cdr Neil Hope, a channel was opened to discuss the mutual benefit that could be gained through a Force Development visit by the Talent Pathway team, and how the trainee air traffic controllers on DCASO would benefit from the education within the communication skills workshops that the FA team deliver across the country. The coaching team were keen to showcase theirs and their players' talents and the visit started to take shape.

With the Talent Pathway team heavily involved in tournaments across the world, the meticulous planning took place mainly over Skype and Teams –



Simulating blind football



Partially sighted football using glasses that replicate visual impairment



Powerchair briefing

another comms hurdle to overcome! As the only date suitable for all, the first of December was chosen and with it, the venue became the indoor sanctuary of the Roland Wycherley Hangar – an inspired selection by WO Fearon, given that the temperatures that week dipped to -7 in Shropshire!

After many months of planning the team arrived at RAF Shawbury on the evening of the 30th November, where Mr Will Palmer had kindly agreed to deliver a fireside chat in the Officers' Mess around his journey as a deaf England International. Will and his father, Andy, gave a candid insight into the adversities that Will had faced growing up and playing football whilst deprived of such a crucial sense, and how he had progressed to the double-figure capped 19 year old elite international footballer that he is today. The audience were captivated and the Q and A session would have gone on long into the night, were it not for the early start planned for the Friday!

A wintry Friday morning welcome awaited the Pathway team, the JATCC trainees and our honoured guest (and RAF FA President) Air-Vice Marshal Tamara Jennings. Our industry partners VIVO had supported throughout the week and had done all they could to heat the hangar albeit with limited success. The coaching team ensured they capitalised on their skills with the joy of movement and ensured that the morning comms briefs were interspersed with opportunities to move about and get warm.

The afternoon saw the trainees get to grips with the array of equipment that the FA team had kindly brought along. Powerchairs, blindfolds and partial-sight glasses were all used to give the trainees an authentic experience of how the disabilities, that some of the squads work with, affect even the most simple of actions – something often taken for granted. Following an induction and safety brief, the trainees were given the chance to put all their learning from the morning into practice, through a series of drills and games – driving home the difficulties, and importance of clear communication – an educative experience that will resonate throughout their careers.

British Forces Broadcasting Service were in attendance to capture the event and the thoughts and experiences of those involved and you can find this by accessing Forces.net TV and searching 'RAF Air Traffic Controllers England'.



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Recent Graduations

The Defence College of Air and Space Operations has recently graduated several courses.

ASOSC 11



Daren Hucknall Memorial Trophy winner Air Specialist Class 2 Kirman presented with his certificate by Warrant Officer Subramaniam

Air and Space Operations Specialists Course 11 graduated on 1 December. The Reviewing Officer was Warrant Officer Murugesvaran Subramaniam, Warrant Officer of the RAF. The Daren Hucknall Memorial Trophy was won by Air Specialist Class 2 Kirman.



ASOSC 11 with Warrant Officer RAF

FOTC 3



FOTC3 with the ISTAR Commander

Flight Operations Training Course 3 graduated on 19 January. The Reviewing Officer was Air Commodore Simon Strasdin CBE MA RAF, ISTAR Commander. The Mulvihill Trophy was won by Flying Officer Mankel.



Air Commodore Strasdin presents the Mulvihill Trophy to Flying Officer Mankel

JATCC 461



Air Commodore Simon Strasdin presents the Bunting Trophy to Flying Officer Sutherland



Sergeant Pemberton presented with the Marshall Trophy by Air Commodore Simon Strasdin



JATCC 461 with the ISTAR Commander

Joint Air Traffic Control Course 461 graduated on 19 January. The Reviewing Officer was Air Commodore Simon Strasdin CBE MA RAF, ISTAR Commander. The Bunting Trophy and Alenia Marconi Systems Trophy were won by Flying Officer Sutherland and the Marshall Trophy by Sergeant Pemberton.



Air Commodore Simon Strasdin presents the Bunting Trophy to Sub Lieutenant Pearce



The Marshall Trophy presented to Flying Officer Callear by Air Commodore Simon Strasdin



Air Commodore Simon Strasdin presents the Alenia Marconi Systems to Flying Officer Smith

JATCC 462

Joint Air Traffic Control Course 462 also graduated on 19 January. The Reviewing Officer was Air Commodore Simon Strasdin CBE MA RAF, ISTAR Commander. The Bunting Trophy was one by Sub Lieutenant Pearce, the Marshall Trophy by Flying Officer Callear and the Alenia Marconi Systems by Flying Officer Smith.



JATCC 462 with the ISTAR Commander

ASOSC 12



Group Captain Baron presents the Salesian Trophy to Air Specialist Class 2 Christie



Air Specialist Class 2 Crossland presented with the Daren Hucknall Memorial Trophy by Group Captain Baron



ASOSC 12 with Commandant DCASO

Air and Space Operations Specialists Course 12 graduated on 26 January. The Reviewing Officer was Group Captain Andy Baron BEng MA MSc RAF, Commandant DCASO. The Salesian Trophy was won by Air Specialist Class 2 Christie and the Daren Hucknall Memorial Trophy was won by Air Specialist Class 2 Crossland.

Ascent - your UKMFTS partner

For more than 15 years, Ascent has delivered world-class, integrated, tri-service aircrew training through the United Kingdom Military Flying Training System (UKMFTS).

A joint venture between Lockheed Martin and Babcock International, Ascent operates a fleet of 110 aircraft and over 100 simulators at our six modern training centres. We help deliver next generation combat leaders to Operational Conversion Units leaders through our unique blend of live and synthetic training, with more than 150,000 accident-free flying hours and 103,000 simulation hours achieved.

Of these, 61,000 flying hours and 29,000 simulation hours have been delivered to trainees at Shawbury. Our seven Jupiter and 29 Juno aircraft are based between RAF Shawbury and RAF Valley, and are also deployed to Middle Wallop for tactical exercise training courses.

Looking to the future, UKMFTS capacity is being expanded to match the demands of a modernised and more capable front line. Capacity in



Training in the simulator

rotary wing flying training has been increased, so that Royal Navy and Army Air Corps helicopter pilots will not need to complete fixed wing training. This releases capacity in Elementary Flying Training for an increased number of RAF fixed wing pilots required for new Combat Air and Air Mobility/ISTAR capabilities.

Across all UKMFTS pipelines, Ascent continues to invest for the future, and a significant amount of our focus is on the digital transformation of the system. We also continue to push the boundaries of training and are working with the MOD to explore the potential of new capabilities such as augmented and virtual reality.

Juno crew pre-flight checks



RAF Shawbury personnel recognised in the New Year's Military Commendations List 2024

Military and civilian personnel from RAF Shawbury were honoured in the Military Commendations' list, announced in conjunction with the New Year's Honours List 2024. Group Captain Andy Baron (Commandant of Shawbury's Training Schools), Wing Commander Alan Jones (Station Commander), and all personnel at RAF Shawbury were delighted that nine individual and two team awards were announced within the main honours' list. The Awards will be presented in various ceremonies this year.



Air and Space Commander Commendation

Mrs G Moore (Community Development Officer)

Commander United Kingdom Strategic Command Commendation

Flight Sergeant (now Master Aircrew) D J Whittington (No. 1 Flying Training School)

Commander Home Command Commendation

Lieutenant (now Captain) A Radford (No. 1 Flying Training School)

Commander Joint Helicopter Command Commendation

Flight Lieutenant G E Cone (No. 1 Flying Training School)

Air Officer Commanding 22 Group Commendation

Flight Lieutenant W J Enright (Defence College of Air and Space Operations)

Warrant Officer K J Morley (Defence College of Air and Space Operations)

Air Officer Commanding 22 Group Team Commendation

Defence College of Air and Space Operations Assurance Squadron Standards

Flight and Training Specialist Advisor

Head of Flying Training Commendation

Warrant Officer S Griffin (Force Development Squadron)

Corporal K Harper (Force Development Squadron)

Sixty Squadron Phase Lead Team (No. 1 Flying Training School)

Meritorious Service Medal

Warrant Officer Class 1 J I Sweeney (Central Flying School (Helicopter) Squadron)

Honours & Awards Ceremony on 25 January 2024

At an Honours & Awards Ceremony on Thursday 25 January at RAF Shawbury Air Commodore Nick Knight OBE MA RAF, Deputy Air Officer Commanding No. 2 Group, presented honours and awards to personnel from the Whole Force at RAF Shawbury. Family members, friends and colleagues proudly watched as the Air Commodore presented the awards to our highly deserving people acknowledging their tremendous service.

Long Service and Good Conduct Medals were awarded to:

Major Walker and Sergeant Shannon.

Long Service and Good Conduct Medal Clasps were awarded to:

Flight Lieutenant Bromwich and Warrant Officer Class One Massey

A Royal Warrant was awarded to:

Warrant Officer Wosik

Deputy Commander Operations (now known as Air and Space Commander) Commendations were awarded to:

Flight Lieutenant Hodgson and Flight Lieutenant (Retired) Brown.

Air Officer Commanding No. 22 Group Commendations were awarded to:

Flight Lieutenant Cooke, Flight Sergeant Flanders, Sergeant Turner and Mr Phillips.

An Aries Silver Award was given to Mr Parry.



Pictured: Honours and Award recipients with Air Commodore Knight and the Station Commander, Wing Commander Jones

315/317 Course Community Project

Students undergoing Pilot training at RAF Shawbury swapped their flying kit for gardening gloves recently to attempt to bring some life back into the garden at the Station's Spring Nursery, Shawbury Squirrels.

Nine trainees from No. 1 Flying Training School, who are all in the early stages of their rotary training, mucked in together to clean up an overgrown garden play area which was unsafe for the children to play in. Together they cut back dangerous thorn bushes and bramble, trimmed



Members of Courses 315 and 317 in the Nursery garden



Course members busy clearing the garden

down overgrown grass and shrubs and reinvigorated the 'Mud Kitchen', along with raking up and disposing of six large bin bags of leaves.

Staff from the Nursery said, "The course came to the nursery to help us maintain our Explorers baby room outside area. They were extremely helpful cutting

back the bushes which had overgrown and in weeding our flowerbeds. We're extremely grateful for all of their help!"

Torrential rain did not dampen the spirits, but it did prevent a new walkway being painted which will hopefully be completed in 2024. But for now, the garden is once again ready to play in by the young Shawbury Squirrels.

Community Support Parenting Classes

All Parenting Classes arranged by Community support are generously funded by the Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund and have proven popular and of benefit to our families, babies and young children, under 5 years of age.

Classes are held on Wednesday mornings in the Cookson Community Centre. They are an integral part of community life and are designed to help support families to learn and improve new skills, build confidence and promote a healthy relationship between parent and child. They are equally a great way of making friends and expanding social circles.

A one-day Paediatric First Aid Course was held in October, this gave parents and carers the extra enhanced knowledge in First Aid.

January 2024 kicked off with a popular Parenting Class – Tippiie Toes, a 5-week Baby Massage & Reflexology course. These classes are popular with both new and existing parents. It teaches useful techniques to help babies with

common ailments such as colic, acid reflux and sleeping issues. Courses are beneficial for both parents and their babies and is helpful for bonding. In March 2024, we will be hosting a 4-week Mini First Aid & Prevention course which provides parents with invaluable advice and information of what to do in an emergency, including guidance on how to prevent accidents occurring. Advice from choking hazards, CPR, bleeds, febrile convulsions is also included amongst other topics. Additionally, there is practical and interactive advice on how to baby proof the home.

In April, we are hoping to arrange Little Gannets – Fussy Eaters classes. These workshops have proven popular in the past and are aimed at parents of young babies of weaning age. In addition to

weaning advice, the classes provide guidance on choking hazards, nutrition and allergies and also inspiration for recipes and tips for meal ideas. Especially helpful for new parents.

Further classes to look out for which are being organised for later in the year are: Music & Mayhem – learning through music, props and dancing. Mummy Chiro – Post natal exercise classes. Story Massage – massage through story telling for older babies and young children up to pre-school age. Baby Steps – providing a safe environment for parents to talk about their feelings and any issues.

Happy baby, happy parent!

Mrs Angie Webster
Community Support Co-ordinator

Bundeswehr MilFit Cup 23

Highlights

Last year a team of five personnel from RAF Shawbury, including two German Army aircrew trainees, participated in the Bundeswehr (German Armed Forces) MilFit Cup. Our fantastic team were awarded the Fittest International Team trophy.

There was full write-up of the event in Edition 3 of 2023, but we now have some images from the event. The team are hoping to defend their title again this year.

*Pictured right:
The RAF Shawbury
team ready to start*



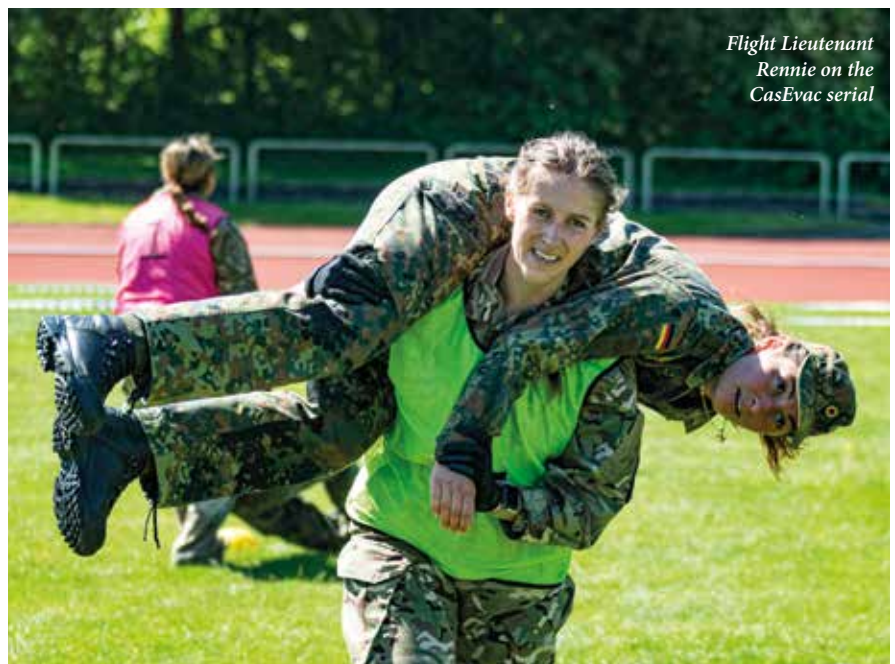
Start of the 800m run with Flight Lieutenant Rennie



The Patrol event



Major Martin on the Ammo Box Carry



*Flight Lieutenant
Rennie on the
CasEvac serial*

Taking
Football
To
Africa
and beyond appeal

Record Year

A charitable appeal operated from RAF Shawbury has completed its most successful year since its inception, whilst also achieving its goal in gaining the level requirement to gain full charity status.

The RAF Taking Football to Africa and Beyond Charitable Appeal delivers 'Aid through Football' by collecting donated items of football kit and redistributing them to children and adults across the globe. The Appeal, which is organised by Wing Commander Neil Hope MBE and Squadron Leader Mark Smales, was set up in 2006 to deliver kit to Africa. It quickly became global and to date has delivered over 37,1000 items of kit, including over 10,4000 football shirts to 63 countries worldwide.

The team have again surpassed previous years in 2023 with the most deliveries and highest numbers of items ever delivered. A total of 31 deliveries have been made to 15 countries across the world with Kenya being the most utilised country through the British Army Training Unit Kenya (BATUK) and Braeburn Garden Estate School in Nairobi. Kits delivered included items donated by football teams and individuals from across the United Kingdom; from England (The Football Association) and Premier League clubs including Leicester City, Brighton & Hove Albion, Aston Villa, and Wolverhampton Wanderers. The team also delivered a large amount of kit donated by the Appeal's local club, and one of its top links, Shrewsbury Town FC, as well as items donated by clubs throughout Grassroots football.



Charlotte Hope and local children in Kenya

The Appeal team visited Kenya in April 2023 with a mixed military and civilian group of 16 people and completed 34 separate visits in and around Nairobi and in Gilgil, 2 hours north of the capital on the Great Rift Valley. In total, the team delivered 19,000 items including 5,800 football shirts. In completing the deliveries, the team interacted with children and adults in the major slum areas of Kibera, Kibagare and Mathare as well as schools, orphanages and football teams who were all in need of essential, life changing aid. Kibera is Africa's largest slum with over one million people living in an area of around three-square kilometres with no permanent running water or electricity supplies and no sewerage system. In Gilgil, the team were honoured to be able to spend two nights at the Restart Centre, founded by the incredible Mary Coulson MBE.

The centre is beloved by the Appeal as Neil's daughter Charlotte volunteered there for a month in 2019. Charlotte was tragically killed in a car crash on 9

April 2022 and her mother Helen was seriously injured. As the first trip since Charlotte passed away it was poignant that two of her university flat mates and one of her work friends joined the team on this trip. Additionally, the Hearts of Ruiru, a team who the team have worked with for many years, organised a brilliant Tournament in Charlotte's name which the Appeal provided trophies and kits for.

Since Charlotte's loss her parents and friends have raised funds for the Restart Centre. An amazing £52,000 has been raised which will be used by the centre to fund children through university. The amount raised will put up to five children per year through University in Kenya for the next seven years. The first four students are already at university completing studies in Medicine, IT and Teaching. Following this amazing fundraising Charlotte's brother Chris decided to set up Lottie's Way – The Charlotte Hope Foundation. This was set up initially as a crowdfunding page



Corporal Pip Wilson in action at the Dr Kampf School in Eastlands, Nairobi. At the Musa Otieno (Kenya's most capped player) Soccer Academy.



The 2023 delivery team at Ruiru, Kenya

to try to hit the £5000 required to gain its charity status. This was achieved by the New Year and Chris has now applied for Charity status. The aim of the appeal is to continue the work we have competed with Restart. Lottie's Way will raise funds which will be used to help children and adults, mainly in Kenya, but wherever it is needed.

The next Kenya visit is booked with the team visiting the East African country over Easter 2024.

Neil said, "This continuing success of the Appeal is incredible. The hard work of a small team of volunteers is exemplary. It has been incredible to also raise such substantial funds for the brilliant Restart Centre. The amount raised will change the lives of so many youngsters who were rescued from the streets. The beginning of Lottie's Way will be a wonderful legacy for our beautiful daughter Charlotte. Charlotte assisted with the Appeal and completed a huge amount of charity and volunteering work. She was a caring young woman with her whole life in front of her."



Neil, Helen and Charlotte Hope in Kenya



Lottie's Way will now be the lead as the Charity and the Taking Football to Africa and Beyond Appeal will be incorporated into the Charity but will not receive any funding. All funds raised will go direct to those who need it, through the agreement of its trustees.

Lottie's Way:
<https://lottiesway.com>

<https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/lottieswaycharlottehopefoundation>



Neil and Chris Hope at the Charlotte Hope Memorial Tournament in Ruiru, Kenya

RAF Shawbury's Nominated Charities for 2024

On 14th December 2023, the RAF Shawbury Charities Committee held their Annual General Meeting. At this meeting, committee members considered a number of different charities put forward by Station personnel and selected four to become the Station's nominated charities for 2024. More details of all four charities can be found in this article. The first two charities, Tough Enough To Care and Lottie's Way obtained the most votes so will each receive 30% of the money raised by Shawbury fundraising this year. Hounds for Heroes and local charity Lingen Davies Cancer Fund will receive 20% each.

There are lots of events to get involved with at Shawbury to help raise money for these causes, starting with the 10K race around the airfield in February. Shawbury will host the annual Battlespace Management 5-a-side football tournament in June, and plans are coming together for a big night of music and film in the coming months. Additionally, regular Station Quiz Nights are held in the Aries Club.

There is also the opportunity to support many other charities and good causes; from wearing odd socks for Down's Syndrome Awareness Day, to the RAFA Rides cycle events, and the Shrewsbury Dragon Boat Race for the Severn Hospice, there is something for everyone. If you have your own fundraising ideas or charities close to your heart you wish to raise money for, check out the Charities page at the Community section on Shawbury SharePoint for more details, or to tell us about events you are taking part in.

Touch Enough To Care

A national Mental Health charity which also runs a weekly support group for Shropshire from the Youth Activity Centre at RAF Shawbury. Their primary aim is to provide help and support to anyone affected by male mental health issues, to promote positive conversations around mental health and to remove the toxic stigma surrounding mental health for men. They also offer dedicated women's and LGBT+ support groups. <https://toughenoughtocare.help/>



Lottie's Way: The Charlotte Hope Foundation

Lottie's Way is a charitable foundation created to make a difference in the lives of underprivileged adults and children around the world. The foundation is dedicated to providing access to resources and education for adults and children who are unable to receive it otherwise due to poverty or other barriers. Named after Charlotte Hope, The Charlotte Hope Foundation, was founded in 2023 by Wing Commander Neil Hope from RAF Shawbury and his son Chris Hope, to continue Charlotte's legacy. Lottie's Way (lottiesway.com)



Hounds for Heroes

Hounds for Heroes provides benefit through specially trained assistance dogs to those serving or who have served in HM Armed Forces and the Emergency Services. Their application process is open to anyone from the Services who has become disabled through illness or injury. Assistance dogs can help individuals to overcome physical barriers and promote a sense of freedom whilst providing a loyal comrade who can support those affected by disability in starting a new life. <https://www.houndsforheroes.com/>



Lingen Davies Cancer Fund

Lingen Davies is a cancer charity which was launched in 1979 to bring cancer services closer to the people of Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin, and Mid-Wales and is based at the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital. Since then, they estimate that more than 100,000 people have had their cancer treatment and care improved as a direct impact of the work done by staff, volunteers and cancer appeals. <https://www.lingendavies.co.uk/>





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High Ercall Day Nursery,
Church Road,
High Ercall,
Telford
TF6 6AF
01952 771305

Hazles Farm Day Nursery,
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SY4 4HE
01939 250234

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Beautiful The Carole King Musical

Andie Wilmore-Evans as Carole King

Duane Barry as Lead Guitar

Raphel Ffion as Lead Drums

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Happy Days Are Here Again, Will You Still Love Me Tomorrow, Up On The Roof, On Broadway, The Locomotion, You've Lost That Loving feeling, One Fine Day, Chains, We Gotta Get Out of This Place, You've Got A Friend, (You Make Me Feel) Like A Natural Woman, I Feel The Earth Move and more...

S♥TC Shrewsbury Musical Theatre Co.

Shrewsbury Musical Theatre Company - originally known as Shrewsbury Amateur Operatic Society - is Shropshire's longest established community theatre group. Aside from the War Years and Covid lockdown, the award-winning company has entertained generations of Shropshire audiences for over a century.

Their latest production, from June 13th -15th at Theatre Severn, is **Beautiful – The Carole King Musical**. It's the inspiring and witty true story of Carole's remarkable rise to stardom, from being part of a hit song-writing team with her husband Gerry Goffin, to her relationship with fellow song-writers and best friends Cynthia Weil and Barry Mann. Carole went on to become one of the most successful solo acts in popular music history. Along the way, she wrote the soundtrack to a generation, and the show features countless classics such as *You've Lost That Lovin' Feeling*, *Natural Woman*, *Take Good Care of My Baby*, *You've Got a Friend*, *So Far Away*, *Up on the Roof*, and *The Loco-motion*. This Tony® and Grammy® Award-winning musical phenomenon is filled with the songs you remember and a story you'll never forget.

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We encourage our children to engage in motivating and achievable tasks throughout the year, and in almost all weathers. The children participate in exciting activities including shelter building, bug hunts, sensory activities and cooking on an open fire to name a few.

Together we make crafts from Forest treasures such as stickmen, ladybird stones, and pinecone owls. We listen to stories and join in singing several forest school songs together. Our main Forest School sessions are aimed at Toddlers and Pre-School children who have morning and afternoon sessions throughout the week.



Once a week on a Tuesday morning, we hold a family and friends' session where Parents/Carers can come along and enjoy the forest environment with us! This is held 10am-11.30, we have lots of fun each week and a campfire snack too which is always a big hit with the children. To book a place please call 01939 250234. This is open to everyone, and you do not have to be enrolled in the Nursery to attend this but booking is essential.



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- Al Dyer

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