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The Magazine of RAF Odiham

Issue 2 • 2024



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## Getting divorced.

A divorce is the legal ending of a marriage. Either party can apply for a divorce on the basis that the marriage has irretrievably broken down. There is no longer any requirement to give reasons for the marriage breakdown, making the procedure much more amicable and removing any 'blame' placed on either party.

The original marriage certificate will be required, and all divorces are now dealt with by the court via an online service.

There is an option to issue a divorce on a sole or joint basis. A sole application would mean one party preparing and submitting the request for a divorce. The court would issue the divorce and then a copy would be sent to the other person. They would then need to acknowledge the divorce by completing an Acknowledgment Form, stating whether or not they are agreeable to the divorce proceeding. The difference with a joint application is that you are preparing and submitting the request for a divorce jointly. It may not be appropriate for a joint application to be made and this is something that can be discussed prior to divorce proceedings being issued.

Once the divorce has been issued by the court and acknowledged/agreed by the other party involved, there would then be a 20 week period known as a 'cooling off period'. This allows both parties to reflect on whether they wish to continue with the divorce before progressing the proceedings to the next stage. It also allows time for the parties involved to start to give consideration to other matters arising from the divorce, for example the division of any assets and/or arrangements for children.

Once the 20 week period has passed, the next stage can be applied for which is known as the conditional order. At this stage the court will be confirming that it is satisfied that the parties are entitled to a divorce and will set a date for the conditional order to be granted.

Once the conditional order has been granted, there will then be a further 6 weeks before the final order can be applied for. The final order is the end of the divorce and once this has been granted, the marriage will be dissolved and you would no longer be married to one another. This may affect any rights that either party may have in the event of the other's death in respect of death in service benefits and/or pensions. It is important to seek advice in relation to this before finalising the divorce.

If you would like to talk to someone about starting divorce proceedings or talk through your options, please contact our family department on 01420 550543 or [louise@kjcox solicitors.co.uk](mailto:louise@kjcox solicitors.co.uk).





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


## MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

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

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### ON THE COVER

A Chinook fly's above London as part  
of the Kings Birthday Flypast

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## Editor's FOREWORD

MACr Richard White

Well, I can't believe this is the first issue in my second season as editor. I'm hoping that there have been some positive changes to the magazine but appreciate there's still work to do. In the upcoming editions I aim to make the features more consistent and strive to involve the community. As always if there's a story you'd like to see in print or you've got a suggested improvement get in touch. Lastly, I'd like to thank those who continuously support the magazine.

# STATION COMMANDER'S FOREWORD

Gp Capt Matt Roberts

**Hello,**

**At the time of writing the sun is in the sky and Summer seems to have well and truly arrived here at RAF Odiham, and not before time either – the winter dragged on far too long.**

Summer brings with it a whole host of things to look forward to, including the amazing Families Day on 09 Aug. The project officer (Si Almond) and his team have put a huge amount of work into delivering what will be one of the best events in recent memory to enjoy. We ask a huge amount of our Service Families here at Odiham, and this is a small way of us saying 'thank you' for your forbearance and support.

Speaking of support - it was fantastic to be in Beacon Field in Odiham last week for the official Odiham village launch of Armed Forces Week 2024. The Odiham Parish council had done a great job of gathering a swathe of people from across the village, to come out and show their support for RAF Odiham and the UK Armed Forces in general, including a wonderful group from the schools who waved their flags with gusto. As Station Commander I can honestly say that we are well and truly spoilt by the support we get from the local community, especially given that sometimes we can be a very noisy neighbour, but events like the Bands in the Bury (which was set up on Armed Forces Day in 2007) are a lasting reminder of the fondness in which our community holds us.

On that note I hope you felt as proud as I did upon seeing three Chinooks from 7 Sqn lead the King's birthday flypast – a real honour for the Station and as you would imagine, bang on time and target.

Odiham's sports teams have enjoyed huge success recently, with the Rugby Club leading the way with their recent victory in the



'Binbrook Bomb' tournament. Their success, along with several other sporting heroes from the Station will be celebrated shortly at the Annual Station Sports Awards, which I hope to see some of you at.

We were delighted recently to learn that in addition to the new £2.3m Community Centre building being designed (building expected to commence next year) we were fortunate to receive a grant to completely refurbish the Station tennis courts, so work will commence shortly thanks to the RAF Central Fund.

I can't end without congratulating all our people recognised in the recent King's Birthday Honours list – especially the wonderful Mrs Linzi Neal MBE who has put so much love and effort into our community and its families. Well done!

I wish you all a great Summer. I hope that despite the relentless pace of world events (including the Euros and the General Election!) that you manage to find some precious time to spend with your families, whether it's in Dorset or Disneyland please enjoy every moment and thank you again for your hard work and support.

## Who's Who?

### Air Marshal Paul Lloyd CBE MSc MA MDA BEng CEng FIMechE RAF

The Deputy Chief of the Air Staff (DCAS) of the Royal Air Force is responsible for delivering the RAF Strategy through people, equipment, digital, training, infrastructure and support to ensure the Service can deliver air and space power for the nation and project power and influence around the World.



Air Marshal Lloyd joined the RAF in September 1991, having gained a First-Class Honours degree in Mechanical Engineering from Manchester University. Following specialist Engineer Officer training, he worked on Hercules C-130s and the Tornado GR1/4 aircraft at RAF Brüggen, TTE RAF Cottesmore and 14 Squadron, RAF Lossiemouth, which included overseas exercises and several detachments to the Gulf. In 2009, he became Officer Commanding Engineering and Logistics Wing at RAF Marham, overseeing RAF Marham's first deployment to Afghanistan. He was also the engineering lead for the Tornado GR4 contribution to operations over Libya under OP ELLAMY.

In 2011, he was posted to the Ministry of Defence, providing MoD senior management and Ministers with specialist advice on air, space, and cyber issues. Promoted to Group Captain in 2012, he took up the post of Chief Engineer and Type Airworthiness Authority within the Unmanned Air Systems (UAS) Project Team at Defence Equipment and Support (DE&S). He supported Reaper on Operations, brought Watchkeeper and Scan Eagle into Service with the British Army and Royal Navy respectively, and authorised the flight-testing of Taranis, a UCAS demonstration vehicle.

In 2016, promoted to Air Commodore, he took up the post of Head Typhoon Delivery Team in DE&S, where he was responsible for the capability

development and in-Service support of Typhoon and the Battle of Britain aircraft. Having supported Typhoon operations on Op SHADER, he successfully led Project CENTURION, the major international upgrade programme that integrated new weapons and capabilities on Typhoon, allowing Tornado to retire from RAF Service. This major programme gained the BAE Systems Chairman's Gold Award and Minister for Defence Procurement's Acquisition Excellence Awards overall winner in 2019.

In 2021, he was promoted to Air Vice-Marshal as Director Support and the Chief Engineer of the RAF, also leading on the development of Defence's Aviation NetZero strategy.

In September 2023 he was appointed Acting Air Marshal and took over his current role as Deputy Chief of the Air Staff. Air Marshal Lloyd gained a MSc from the University of Oxford in Major Programme Management, a master's degree in Defence Administration from Cranfield University and an MA in Defence Studies from King's College London. He is a Chartered Engineer and a Fellow of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers, also overseeing the annual Universities Aerospace Challenge.

He was appointed Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire in The Queen's Birthday Honours List 2020.

## Odiham Parish Council



RAF Odiham has always had strong links with its local community, and this issue of Helicon looks at the role of Odiham Parish Council (OPC) and how this connects to Station life via a Q&A with Councillor Chris Greensides, sometimes also known as Sqn Ldr Chris Greensides of 27 Sqn.

### WHAT IS ODIHAM PARISH COUNCIL?

Parish Councils are the local civic authority in England, effectively the lowest tier of local government. There are over 10,000 parish and town councils across England, of which OPC is one, covering the areas of RAF Odiham, Odiham village and North Warnborough.

### WHAT DOES OPC DO?

OPC's duties involve representing the local community, delivering low-level services (such as community buildings – eg the Bridewell in Odiham - maintaining cemeteries and playgrounds, and maintenance of war memorials) to meet local needs, providing consultation on local planning applications and improving community well-being. This only scratches the surface, and more detail is available on the OPC website.

### HOW IS THIS FUNDED?

Funding is derived through a local 'precept' which is added to local council tax.

### WHO IS ON THE COUNCIL?

Non-party affiliated, members of the council are voted into the roles every 4 years, although outside of that new councillors can be co-opted as vacancies arise. OPC consists of 10 councillors, with 6 representing the Odiham village ward, 3 representing the North Warnborough ward and one representing the RAF Odiham ward. I represent the RAF Odiham ward, and as such provide the link between RAF Odiham and the local civic authority. OPC is also in the fortunate position of being able to employ three members of staff; a clerk, a deputy clerk and an amenities officer.

### WHY DID YOU WANT TO BECOME A COUNCILLOR?

I wanted to be able to bring in a wider understanding of liaison both generally between the RAF and civilian agencies (through my previous military experience) and specifically in the Odiham locale, having liaised with local organisations including Farnborough Airport, Lasham Gliding club and local emergency services to arrange flying events for the benefit of RAF Odiham. I'm hoping to re-invigorate RAF Odiham's links with the council, not only assuring appropriate engagement at longstanding events (such as Remembrance, Christmas service and the summer fete) but also seeking additional ways for the Station to engage with the local community; whether that be via charity work, holding Station-led events in Odiham's wider community or other more esoteric ideas. I firmly believe that the Station is only able to deliver outputs to UK Defence so well because of the support it receives from the local population and it behoves RAF Odiham to repay this kindness whenever able.

### WHAT SORT OF COMMUNITY EVENTS DOES OPC ORGANISE?

In short, anything with a civic function in the local area. This has included, but is not limited to, Remembrance parades, the recent beacon lighting event to commemorate the 80th anniversary of D-Day and a flag-raising event for Armed Forces Day. More widely, the council also organises initiatives such as 'Hedgehog Highways' and local right-of-way clearing, where council members get together monthly to clear local footpaths and bridleways of excess vegetation.

### INTERESTING. WHERE CAN I FIND OUT MORE?

Please visit the council website:

<https://odihamparishcouncil.gov.uk/> for additional detail, or contact councillors **Chris Greensides** ([cllrgreensides@odihamparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:cllrgreensides@odihamparishcouncil.gov.uk)) or **Mike Tate** ([cllr Tate@odihamparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:cllr Tate@odihamparishcouncil.gov.uk)), both of whom are based at RAF Odiham.



On the evening of Thursday 6 June, personnel from RAF Odiham supported the local Parish Council, which held a beacon lighting and flag raising ceremony in commemoration of the 80th anniversary of D-Day.



The event, which was also supported by Rotary International, Odiham and North Warnborough Bowling Club and local food vendors, saw hundreds of local personnel, civilian and military, congregate at Odiham Beacon Fields to spend time together in remembrance of this pivotal event in world history; in a ceremony that was mirrored at locations across the UK. Starting with a welcome by Odiham Parish Council Chair, Councillor Angela McFarlane, this was followed by a

reading of a poem by a local school pupil and then music by both Cove Brass Band and Odiham Military Wives Choir.

At 2100 the acts of commemoration began with 1827 (Odiham) Squadron ATC marching on a parade and a bagpipe tribute to Canadian piper William Millin. This preceded the official lighting of a lamp and lighting of the beacon by Cllr McFarlane, ably supported by Odiham Fire Station.



Finally, a tribute was read by RAF Odiham Station Chaplain, Rev (Sqn Ldr) Dawn Colley, and the SMO, Wg Cdr Rebecca Bassett, took the salute during a poignant flag lowering ceremony. The event then concluded with an enthusiastic rendition of the National Anthem.

This event allowed the whole Odiham community to come along and somberly reflect on the sacrifices of that generation, such as those of the aforementioned 'Bill' Millin, who played the bagpipes (armed with only his traditional sgain-dubh, and wearing his father's kilt from Flanders, WWI) whilst on the Normandy beaches 80 years ago.

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# A Ride to Remember

**Thirty years ago, in June 1994, a tragedy occurred which would change the lives of many, both at Odiham and across the country.**

ZD576, a Chinook Mk.2 aircraft flown by a 7 Sqn crew, crashed into a hillside on the Mull of Kintyre, Scotland, killing all 29 passengers and crew onboard.

The repercussions of this huge loss of life have been felt ever since, with news headlines and speculative documentaries exploring every inch of the incident, with no real cause identified to this day. All we can be sure of this, her crew operated with the upmost professionalism and courage in all their duties, and that the flight on the 2nd June 1994 would have been no exception.

Flt Lt Jonathan Tapper, Flt Lt Richard Cook, MALM Graham Forbes and Sgt Kevin Hardie have been remembered ever since, their names read out from the Support Helicopter Memorial near Station Headquarters on Remembrance Sunday. It's easy to forget that Jon, Ric, Graham and Kev were also aircrew based at Odiham, drinking in the messes, known around station with many close friends still working on camp. Every day as 7 Sqn aircrew arrive at Bldg 400, they pass a polished silver plaque, adorned with seven stars and the names of the crew of ZD576. We must never forget.

It was this reason that motivated a group from 7 Sqn to take the long journey up to the Mull, to remember the 30th anniversary of the crash, but also to celebrate the lives of these four men and their passengers tragically killed that day. Wg Cdr Mark 'Potts' Potterton, Flt Lt Jacob 'CJ' Cameron-Johnson, FS Tom Hall and Sgt Lloyd Evans were the individuals selected to undertake the mammoth journey, and with only four days, two motorcycles and a 50/50, it wasn't going to be a walk in the park...

## DAY ONE

After an RV at the Starbucks on the A34, the team set off. I had briefed good weather for the 1250 mile



trip, so it obviously started to rain half way up the M40. I sat behind Potts, envious of his half-faired KTM with a nice tall screen, as I was battered on the slightly more exposed Urban G/S (note the 'Urban').

A short stop for an average lunch at Stafford Services before cracking on to Windermere, the sun was now out in force and the lake (sorry, mere) was glorious. A quick photo, much hilarity about parking the 50/50 ('who brings a 50/50 to the Lakes!?'), and we were off on our final leg to Keswick Youth Hostel, our night stop for Friday.

## DAY TWO

A few beers and some hours on rubber mattresses later, we set off for the border. The plan was a long slog to north of Glasgow

where we could finally enjoy the A roads, however it felt only right to call in on Lockerbie as we rode past. We parked our bikes in the carpark of a small chapel and walked 200 metres to the Lockerbie Air Disaster Memorial Garden, a moving tribute to the 270 people killed in the bombing. Words can't really describe seeing that many names on a memorial, it took us back a little, I don't think we quite estimated the scale of the tragedy. After a short refuel we were back on the road. As my bike didn't have a fuel gauge we were being overly conservative with fuel stops, but I think we were both secretly pleased to give our rearends a break!

As promised, exiting the concrete jungle of the Glasgow ringroad, we left the motorway and tasted



our first Scottish A road. Glorious tarmac and glorious sunshine led us north, around the southern tip of Loch Lomond and into the Loch Fyne café for a well-earned seafood lunch. Potts and I couldn't stop grinning as we sat in the sunbathed garden eating Oysters and procrastinating about 'that hairpin at the bottom of the hill!'. I think the 50/50 crew enjoyed it too, they certainly weren't far behind! Fed and watered, we headed west to our night stop and final destination, Cambeltown, the main town on the Mull. What we were not prepared for was the spectacular 2 hour ride down the west coast of the island, along the 'Long and Winding Road' that inspired the song of the same name. Incredible views, a distinct lack of other vehicles and well laid tarmac came together in harmony, the best riding I've ever done, period. We arrived in Cambeltown a grinning mess, tired but excited for what lay ahead. We'd made it, and now our attention turned to the whole reason for being there. I collected the blue and white wreath, 7 Squadron colours, and we settled in for the night. After a few drams, of course.

## DAY THREE

The weather had turned. Grey stratus dragged its way over the hillside across the bay as we walked to breakfast. Drizzle filled the air. Some other hotel guests had made the journey to commemorate the anniversary, and it seemed like everyone in the town knew someone or had a connection to that terrible day. The hotel manager complemented our wreath, she had been in Cambeltown on the evening of the crash. 29 people tragically lost, but so many more lives affected.





We boarded the 50/50, not really knowing what the next couple of hours would bring. As we drove ever further south it became clear just how barren and inhospitable the Mull of Kintyre is. A single lighthouse sat 200 feet above the crashing waves, and a hillside stretching another 1290 feet upwards to the highest point. We parked where the road ended, at an ominous sign that read, 'End of Public Road'. Leaving the carpark, we chatted about the weather and the night before, but secretly I think we all felt a little moved by being in that place, a barren hillside where so many lives were lost, four of them our own colleagues from Odiham. It all felt a bit close to home. After 15 minutes of walking a small cairn came into view in the distance, skylined against the grey of the Irish sea. We were nearly there.

As we approached the cairn we would need to leave the path, the site is the spot where the largest part of the aircraft came to rest. We had short vignettes prepared, taken directly from the accident report. As we read them to each other it became clear that the weather on that day

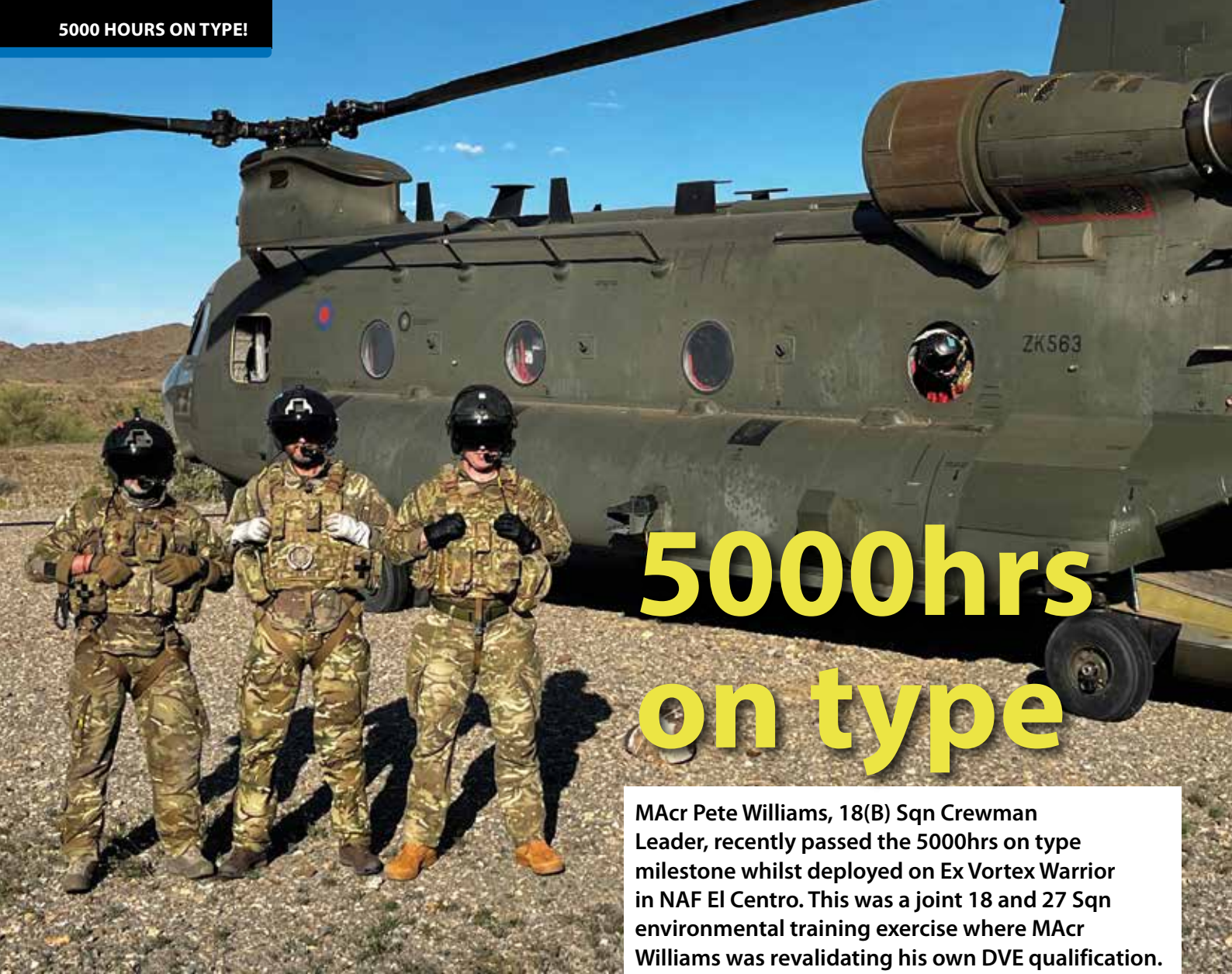
was almost identical to what we were witnessing. We stood for a moment and looked over to the Irish coast, gazing on the exact flight path of ZD576, drifts of low cloud and hill fog momentarily obscuring the land. I think we all felt a little more connected to those 29 people that day.

On reaching the memorial we met some friends of Irish Intelligence officials who had been on board. After a short exchange of pleasantries we laid our wreath and said a poem, 'High Flight', read at many remembrance services for aircrew or those involved in aviation. I swallowed my nerves and read out the names of the 29 people lost that day. It wasn't much, an hour or so, a few words, but it felt right to be there at that time. If I was Jon, Ric, Graham or Kev, I reckon I'd have been pretty happy with that.

I picked up a stone that day as we walked away, it now sits on top of the plaque in the Squadron, a little piece of the Mull of Kintyre here at Odiham, a reminder of their sacrifice.

*Per Diem Per Noctem.*





# 5000hrs on type

**MAcr Pete Williams, 18(B) Sqn Crewman Leader, recently passed the 5000hrs on type milestone whilst deployed on Ex Vortex Warrior in NAF El Centro. This was a joint 18 and 27 Sqn environmental training exercise where MAcr Williams was revalidating his own DVE qualification.**



Arriving at RAF Odiham in 2002, on completion of the Chinook OCF he joined 27 Sqn. Here he deployed on Operations in Northern Ireland and The Falklands as well as Op TELIC in Iraq. As part of the Joint Rapid Reaction Force he also deployed on Op MATURIN in 2005 to support the earthquake disaster relief effort in Pakistan followed by deployment on Op HIGHBROW for the Non-combatant Evacuation Order (NEO) in Lebanon in 2006. He also completed the first of 4 deployments on Op HERRICK in Afghanistan. In his time on 27 Sqn he also earned a Green Endorsement to his Flying Logbook whilst flying with SH STANEVAL when the IRCM nearly caught fire!

In 2009 he joined 7 Sqn, deploying on a further 7 operational tours to Afghanistan as well as 2 Op FAIROAK deployments whilst holding R1 standby. In 2014 he was awarded the Accumulated Campaign Service Medal (ACSM)

in recognition of over 720 days on operations.

Gaining Global Flight Lead status, he deployed on Op GASLOCK in 2015 supporting British troops in North Africa. This was followed by 4 tours on Op SHADER. In 2020 he gained promotion to Master Aircrew, and later that year he was tasked to support Op WINDPLAYER, inserting specialist units from CH-47 onto a hijacked tanker in The Solent (not the Navy!).

In 2022 he took over as Crewman Leader on 18 Sqn, being one of only a handful of aircrew to Serve on all 3 frontline Chinook Sqn's. In 2023 he deployed for a brief spell on Op PELEDA, requalifying his operating skills in a cold weather environment.

Flying the Mk.2, 4, 5, 6 and 6a, MAcr Williams is particularly that over 2000hrs on type are at night, quite a lot in the desert, or if not over water sweating it out in an immersion suit! PDPN.

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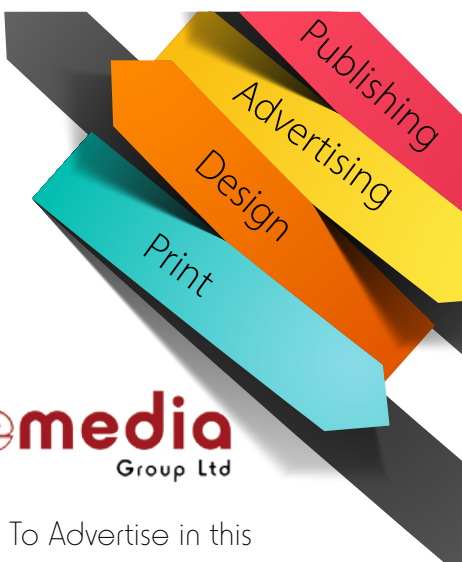
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# RAF Sea Anglers 'Cod not be happier'

RAF Sea Angling set off on their first expedition in over 15 years last month, selecting Norway as the destination on their quest for big fjord cod and haddock.

Staying at the beautiful Vingsand harbour in mid-west Norway, the anglers tested their skills in both shore and boat fishing over the week.

Corporal Emma Gillies said, "The first couple of days were generally

cold and overcast with fresh southeasterly winds, but by Sunday evening the weather cleared, and we were spoiled with two consecutive nights of Northern Lights and stunning sunny days.

Fishing under a blanket of stars

with almost zero light pollution and the Aurora Borealis dancing in the night sky is an experience that will stay with you forever."

There was plenty of cod and haddock that came from both the boat and shore, meaning happy tummies, full freezers, and delighted anglers. Three halibut were caught and safely returned as they are out of season, while big pollock, ling, and coalfish, along with smaller species such as dab and grey gurnards, kept everyone on their toes.

Standout catches of the trip included a 27lb halibut by Sgt Lee Brackenbury, a 20lb cod for CT Darren Paul, and an 8lb haddock for Sgt James Anastasi.



To find out more about Sea Angling, reach out to your Station/Unit gym to locate your nearest association representative or get in touch: [www.rafcf.org.uk/sports/raf-angling](http://www.rafcf.org.uk/sports/raf-angling)

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For more info please contact:  
[basingstokeleaguesecretary@gmail.com](mailto:basingstokeleaguesecretary@gmail.com)

# Summer BBQ Time!

by Cpl Dennis ODI Cat Flt

## Vegan kebabs with avocado dressing

**Prep:** 30 min **Cook:** 10 mins **Easy.**

• Serves 4ish, Healthy, Veggie, GF, Vegan chunks of mushrooms, peaches, courgettes and red onions onto skewers and barbecue them for a wonderful BBQ flavour. Serve with a delicious avocado dressing.

### Ingredients

- 3 1/2 tbsp Olive oil or rapeseed oil.
- 2 garlic cloves, crushed.
- 1 tsp chilli flakes
- 3 rosemary sprigs finely chopped.
- 4 Portobello Mushrooms
- 4 peaches, destoned, each cut into quarters.
- 2 large courgettes, each cut into 8 pieces or the same size as the rest.
- 2 large red onions, each cut into 8 wedges (leave the root on)
- 1 avocado
- 1 lemon, juiced.
- 1/2 tsp wholegrain mustard
- Large bag rocket watercress and spinach salad
- 2 tbsp toasted mixed seeds

### Method

Mix 3 tbsp oil with the crushed garlic, chilli flakes and rosemary chopped fine, placing alternate pieces of Portobello Mushrooms, peach, courgette, and red onion onto each skewer – you can get two pieces of everything on each. Brush the kebabs with the flavoured olive oil and season with salt and black pepper, then set aside. The kebabs can be made the day before and kept in the fridge.

Heat the BBQ or a grill to its highest setting. Meanwhile, blitz the avocado, half the lemon juice and 50ml water to a smooth dressing and season to taste. Whisk the remaining lemon juice, remaining 1/2 tbsp olive oil and mustard together, then toss with the mixed rocket salad and toasted seeds.

Barbecue or grill the skewers for 4-5 mins on each side or until cooked through and nicely charred. Pile onto a platter and serve with the avocado dressing and salad.



## South Asian chilli, sesame & honey chicken

**Prep:** 15 mins **Cook:** 20 mins **Easy**

• Serves 6-8 people. A kebab always goes down well at a BBQ, and this Korean chicken with sweet, spicy, and sticky glaze is a great option. Scatter over spring onions to finish.

### Ingredients

- 12 chicken thighs, boneless and skinless
- 2 tbsp soy sauce
- 1 tbsp sesame oil
- thumb-sized piece ginger, grated.
- 4 spring onions sliced.
- GLAZE IT UP!
- 4 tbsp Korean chilli paste (gochujang) or use a mixture of 3 tbsp ketchup and 1 tbsp sriracha chilli sauce. (I like to give it a bit extra chilli personally).
- 2 tbsp honey
- juice 1/2 lime
- 1 and a 1/2 tbsp soy sauce
- 1 tsp sesame oil
- 2 tbsp sesame seeds

### Method

#### STEP 1

Toss the chicken in the soy sauce, sesame oil and ginger. Thread each thigh on two long metal skewers, so that each skewer pierces one side of the thigh. Keep threading the chicken, making sure it's packed onto the skewers tightly. Chill until you're ready to cook. Mix the ingredients for the glaze.

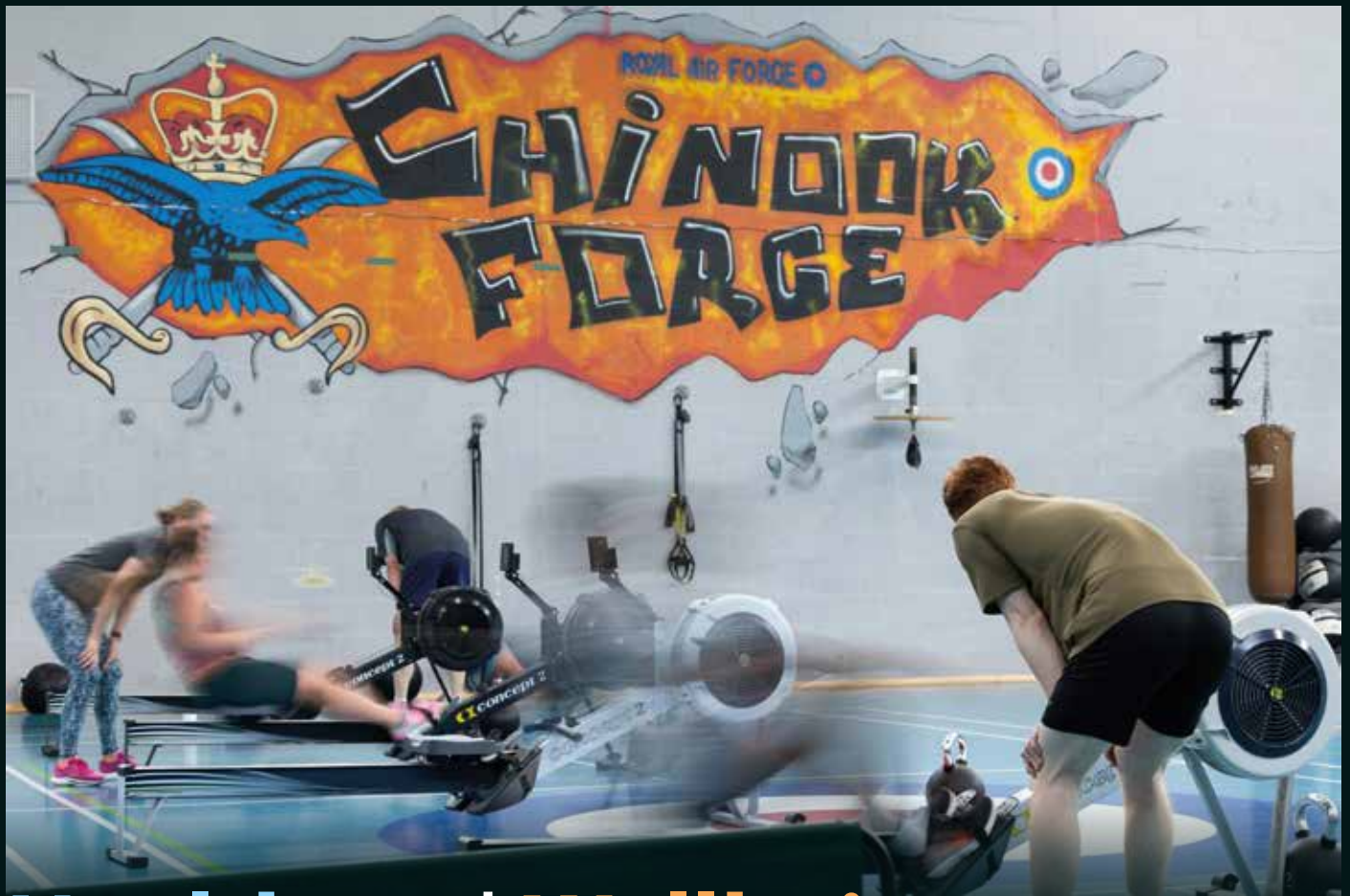
#### STEP 2

Heat the BBQ. If using a coal BBQ, wait for the coals to turn ashen before you start cooking. Or if you are on Gas then get it really hot then turn down before placing on the BBQ. Cook the kebab for 5-8 mins on each side (depending on the heat). But make sure it is cooked through! Once nicely charred but not fully cooked through, start painting on the glaze. The honey will catch if cooked for too long – the key to nice sticky chicken is applying the glaze in layers, turning the kebab often.

#### STEP 3

Once the glaze has been used up and the chicken is cooked through (it'll take about 20 mins in total), transfer to a plate and leave to cool for 5 mins before serving scattered with spring onions and coriander.





# Health and Wellbeing

**A topic that has become paramount for both employees and employers, Health and Wellbeing has never been more important within the workplace. A healthy workforce is not only more productive but much happier, leading to greater job satisfaction and retention. In a fast-paced environment like RAF Odiham, the PEd Flt is striving to cultivate Health and Wellbeing across station to create a positive, productive environment for the Chinook Force to thrive.**

The PTI's constantly strive to promote physical activity. Daily circuits, spin sessions and boxercise are on offer to all service personnel, dependents, civil servants and contractors. CO's Cup will run throughout the year, incorporating six events, giving sections an opportunity to unlock their inner competitive spirit and challenge the rest of the station at various sporting events. The facilitation of sport remains a top priority for the PEd Flt, with over 24 active clubs in operation, supporting individuals

competing at station level, all the way up to UKAF standard.

Recognising the importance of mental health is crucial for creating a supportive work environment. Promoting a work-life balance and reducing stigma around mental health issues can help employees feel more comfortable seeking support when needed. The PEd Flt is a safe environment for people to come and not only enjoy the sessions put on, but also to speak to the PTI's about any ongoing queries or concerns. The team are more than happy to listen and advise on where to seek the appropriate support.

Nutrition is the cornerstone of overall health and wellbeing, playing a vital role in every aspect of our lives. A balanced diet rich in fruits, vegetables, lean proteins, and whole grains provides essential nutrients that fuel our bodies and minds, supporting optimal performance and vitality. By making informed food choices and prioritising nutrient-dense foods, we can improve our physical and mental wellbeing and ensure we can maximise our potential both in and out of the workplace.







# FAST

## Farnborough Air Sciences Trust Museum



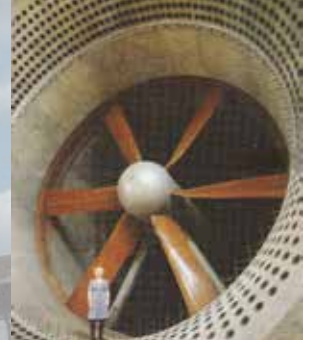
### Farnborough is the Birthplace of British Aviation

The FAST Museum, adjacent to Farnborough airfield, holds a collection of aircraft (actual and model), satellites, simulators and other priceless material related to Farnborough's world-famous Royal Aircraft Establishment. Visit us to see displays of unique once top-secret aviation technology, innovations that were world-leading in the 20th century. Try your hand at our flight simulators – be a Top Gun or a Concorde pilot for the day. See a range of aircraft and cockpits – you may get a chance to sit in one. Marvel at the full scale replica of British Army Aircraft No 1A, the first man-carrying powered aircraft to fly in the UK in 1908.



Visit the historic wind tunnels that were crucial to Britain's world lead in aerodynamic research in the mid 20th century. Examine close up the human centrifuge, used to train RAF fighter pilots, and a unique and impressive example of 1950's British Engineering. Tours of both attractions can be pre-booked through FAST.

See [www.airsciences.org.uk](http://www.airsciences.org.uk) for more information



The FAST Museum is open every weekend and bank holiday Mondays | Opening times 10.00am-4.00pm  
MUSEUM ENTRANCE FREE • Donations welcome • Wind tunnel and centrifuge tours subject to charge.  
FAST MUSEUM, Trenchard House, 85 Farnborough Road, Farnborough GU14 6TF  
[www.airsciences.org.uk](http://www.airsciences.org.uk) | enquiries: [secretary@airsciences.org.uk](mailto:secretary@airsciences.org.uk) | Tel: 01252 375050

# FAST

## Farnborough Air Sciences Trust Museum

The Farnborough Air Sciences Trust (FAST), a registered charity, was founded in 1993 to preserve and promote Farnborough's priceless aeronautical heritage – an important educational resource and an internationally significant part of Britain's scientific progress. Apart from preserving priceless artefacts related to Farnborough's illustrious aviation history, some of which are on display in the FAST Museum, FAST also campaigns to preserve and promote various aviation-related historic buildings at Farnborough.

The FAST Museum, opened in 2003, is located in the former Royal Engineers' Balloon School, built in 1907, where the Royal Flying Corps was formed in 1912. It is one of the country's most historic aviation buildings.

The wind tunnels at Farnborough are some of the few remaining buildings from the world famous Royal Aircraft Establishment. Saved from demolition by FAST and given listed status, these magnificent buildings were at the forefront of aerodynamic research and development from the early 1930s until 1994.

The RAF Institute of Aviation Medicine human centrifuge, almost unchanged from when it was first commissioned in 1955, played a central role in aviation medicine research during its 64-year life (1955-2019). It was used to gain a better understanding of how G affects the human body and to develop the countermeasures

required to equip RAF fast jet pilots with essential life-support systems.

The wind tunnels and centrifuge are not open to the general public and tours of both are operated exclusively by FAST volunteers with the kind permission of the owners (Farnborough Business Park and Raintree Developments Ltd respectively). Both tours provide a close look at the facilities and give visitors an opportunity to learn about the varied history, the impressive construction, the purpose of the testing and the critical research work undertaken there.

FAST offers STEM Accredited educational tours of the Museum for all student ages and youth groups, presenting a unique insight into Farnborough's rich aviation heritage and the fascinating artefacts of our collection. We can also offer educational tours of the wind tunnels and centrifuge. Pre-booked Museum tours by adult groups are also available.

FAST is run entirely by volunteers and is the recipient of the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service. New volunteers are always welcomed - particularly to act as museum guides and to help with the shop and coffee shop during our public opening days. No aviation, technical or engineering knowledge is required for these roles which are a great opportunity to meet other volunteers and interesting visitors from all over the world.



# RAF Odiham Sub-Aqua Club

The RAF Odiham Sub-Aqua Club (ODISAC) has been in existence for over 40 years (est. July 1982), providing training under the British Sub-Aqua Club (BSAC) Training Scheme and thus enabling safe diving under current Adventurous Training (AT) JSP 286 Regulations.

In 2022, post-Covid, ODISAC merged with RAF Benson Sub-Aqua Club (BENSAC) to combine equipment and resources. The current membership stands at 40 members with a mixture of Serving RAF/Army MOD staff and approx. 5 Dependants, all at various grades of Diver from beginner (Ocean Diver) to the highest grade (First Class Diver (FCD)). The Club welcomes anyone affiliated to RAF Odiham or RAF Benson, even if it is to do a Try Dive in the safety of the Pool!

The Club stands for Exploration and Adventure (whilst doing it safely of course!) and making the Sub-Aqua environment accessible for everyone. The Club has gone worldwide in the Expeditions

that its members have enjoyed; UK waters, Egypt, Ascension Island (the AT Centre is sadly closed now), Cyprus, Malta, Belize and Gibraltar. For some of its members, Club activities have led to private trips being organised, resulting in Dive Trips to the likes of Egypt, Bikini Atoll and Truk Lagoon in Micronesia. For local training, inland sites such as Vobster Quay and Stony Cove are used before introducing new divers into the open seas. Club members also routinely participate in the Annual Charity Santa Dive, raising money for the Air Ambulance. This consists of members dressing as Santa's and diving in <math><5^{\circ}</math> C waters, all for a good cause!

The Club is situated within Building 146 and 147 (the old ATC Tower behind the Stn Armoury) and is fully equipped with a Rigid-hull Inflatable Boat (RIB), its own compressor and Nitrox blending facility, and a full suite of top-of-the-line diving equipment, everything from head to foot!

**Club nights** are on Tuesdays from 1830 where a mixture of Theory Lessons and/or Pool Lessons (using the RAF Odiham Pool) are conducted using the pool of 7 Nationally Qualified Instructors (Open Water Instructor (OWI), Advanced Instructor (AI) and National Instructor (NI)) that are based here at RAF Odiham.



© Phil J-M





If you are interested in joining the Club or just want a bit more information, contact the OiC C/T Phil James-Morse (Philip.James-Morse126@mod.gov.uk) or the Training Officer, Flt Lt George Whiteman (George.Whiteman100@mod.gov.uk)





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CHAMPS  
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LUFFENHAM HEATH*

**24 JUN** PAIRS OPEN\*  
PAIRS STABLEFORD  
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*SEACROFT*

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PAIRS STABLEFORD  
*STRATFORD UPON AVON*

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PAIRS STABLEFORD  
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TEAM STABLEFORD  
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*LINCOLN*

\*ENTRY OPEN TO EX-SERVING MEMBERS



Contact us for more info  
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# 18(B) Sqn Tasking with Manchester United Foundation

18(B) Sqn recently supported a Social Mobility football tournament organised and ran by the Manchester United Foundation. The event at Wythenshawe Sports Ground in Manchester was a great opportunity for RAF Odiham personnel to showcase the Chinook Force to attendees, including school children and senior military personnel.

Flying in on the morning of the event, the traditional Wokka sound arrived to form part of the Military Village, arranged by the RAF Careers Engagement Team with tri-service presence. The Chinook was of course the highlight of the event, with crowds flocking to see it up close and hear from the experiences of 15 personnel from RAF Odiham.

The football tournament included school teams from across the North West, Yorkshire and the Midlands with community partnerships with professional teams such as Everton, West Brom, Sheffield United and of course, Manchester United. The event, which was also supported by the Royal Navy and Army recruitment teams was attended by senior officials within the RAF including AVM Rich Pratley, currently ACDS (Spt Ops), and Gp Capt Jon Smith, current RAF FA Chair.

The event included a boys and girls tournament, where between games, the children visited the Chinook where they could try on flying equipment with SES, heard about the challenges of engineering the aircraft and sheltered from the rain inside the back of the cab whilst listening to the aircrew. There were even some members of RAF Odiham Football Club present to demonstrate the opportunities for football within the RAF. Meanwhile, RAF Odiham personnel were lucky enough to meet Fred the Red, Manchester United's mascot!

18(B) Sqn OpsO, and ProjO for the event, Flt Lt Robinson commented "despite being a Liverpool fan,



this was a great opportunity to work alongside the second most successful football club in England! In all seriousness, we relished the opportunity to get involved in such a fantastic event and thank the Manchester United Foundation for the invite."

Overall, this was both a worthwhile and rewarding event and a great day out for all concerned. The positive feedback received from the Manchester United Foundation, RAF Careers Engagement and the members of the Chinook Force who supported means it is on the cards to support again next year!





# OPERATION AFTERLIGHT

## Former RAF Officer pays tribute to the wartime Air Force

*"March, 1945. Hitler's fate is sealed. Allied forces have crossed the Rhine and the Red Army is closing in on Berlin. The war is all but over.*

*But from the darkest depths of the Nazi terror machine, a new danger emerges – the final, awful product of history's most twisted minds.*

*An ultimate act of bloody defiance against humanity itself.*

*Four unlikely allies are the only ones who can stop the horror. RAF pilot Andrew Durban, whose medals hide deep scars of battle. Johnny Grant, his terror-stricken navigator. Sarah Lane, brilliant yet ostracised SOE spymaster, haunted by the agents she sent to their deaths. And Jan Stahl, renegade SS assassin who carries his own devastating secrets.*

*From the deadly skies over Germany to the panic-filled streets of a collapsing Reich, they must find a way to not only uncover a nightmare vision, but to stop it becoming reality.*

*Failure won't just end their dreams of peace. It will end everything."*

Former RAF Squadron Leader Rob Smith's latest novel is in many ways his most personal. *Operation Afterlight*, a WW2 aviation/espionage thriller written under his pen name "Robert Lassen", began life as a love letter to the wartime RAF. Even as it expanded to include the Special Operations Executive, the German resistance and other elements, Smith's desire to pay some measure of tribute, however small and inadequate, to the aircrew and others who fought the Second World War never changed. His own eighteen years in the RAF saw a lot of changes in the Service, but with each one of those years, his admiration for the men and women who served from 1939 to 1945 only grew.

Smith drew additional inspiration from several real-life figures while he created the four main characters in *Operation Afterlight*. Some of these individuals will be very familiar to service members and



Author,  
Robert  
Lassen

the public. Others deserve to be more well-known.

- Wing Commander Andrew Durban is Smith's tribute to Guy Gibson, particularly when it comes to personal bravery and the hidden costs of combat stress. Durban







Guy Penrose Gibson VC



John Ebanks

also contains elements of Group Captain Leonard Cheshire, a later commander of the legendary "Dambusters" of 617 Squadron and perhaps the only other RAF pilot of the war who could compete with Gibson for fame or decorations.

- Squadron Officer Sarah Lane of SOE's 'X' Section (and Women's Auxiliary Air Force) is based heavily on the less-known but equally impressive Squadron Officer Vera Atkins WAAF of 'F' Section, who ran the network of SOE agents flown and parachuted into France. Even when the war ended, her devotion to her missing agents continued – leading to her criss-crossing the ruins of Germany, hoping to find survivors.



Vera Atkins

- Flying Officer Johnny Grant is an amalgam of several of the roughly five hundred young men from the Caribbean who volunteered to fly in the wartime RAF; more than a third would die in action. The closest direct model for Grant is Flight Lieutenant John Ebanks from Jamaica, a Mosquito navigator, but Smith also included major elements of Flying Officer Erol Barrow, who would later become the first Prime Minister of the independent Barbados. Of the eleven other men who enlisted

with Barrow as the "Barbados Second Contingent", six were killed.

- Of the four point-of-view characters in *Operation Afterlight*, only the renegade SS assassin Obersturmbannführer Jan Stahl has no historical model. Instead, he represents the brave (if ultimately failed) sacrifice of those who fought against Nazism from the inside, including trying to overthrow Hitler. Their motivations varied, from the moral to the practical, but almost all paid a deadly price for daring to oppose the Führer.

Stahl's biggest real-life influence appears in his own right in the book – the doomed Admiral Wilhelm Canaris, head of the Abwehr and secret anti-Hitler conspirator. Smith also included the larger-than-life character of Air Vice Marshal Sir Basil Embry who, believing that he should order no one to do anything he wouldn't do himself, often disguised himself to fly on the most dangerous missions his aircrew undertook. Finally, Smith pays homage to the legendary Danish SBS officer Anders Lassen. Not content with borrowing Lassen's name for his author



Rob Smith, Basra, Iraq 2004.

pseudonym, Smith could not resist including the heavily-fictionalised but suitably similar "Major Anders."

"There is one other character looming large over the whole book," Smith adds. "And that is the de Havilland Mosquito itself. What an aircraft! I wouldn't say I'm obsessed with it, but *Operation Afterlight* is the second novel I've written about the "Mossie", so maybe I'm wrong. The good news is that "The People's Mosquito" project is currently underway to restore one of these magnificent machines to Britain's skies before the end of the decade."



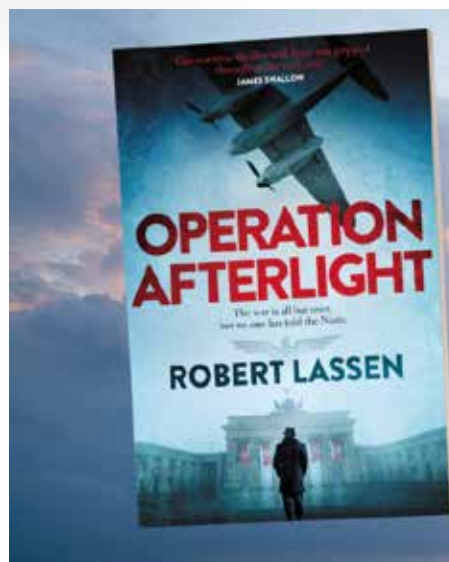
Wilhelm Canaris

A Mosquito on the BMBF one day?

Watch this space...

**Operation AFTERLIGHT** by Robert Lassen was released on 25 April 2024 by Silvertail Books. More information about Smith/Lassen and his works can be found at: [www.robertlassen.com](http://www.robertlassen.com).

For more information about The People's Mosquito and how to support their work, visit: [www.peoplesmosquito.org.uk](http://www.peoplesmosquito.org.uk)



**'A BLOCKBUSTER...  
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300 artist venues to visit free of charge  
See our website for a mini-trail of artists around Odiham

 **HAMPSHIRE**  
open studios



Saturday 17th - Bank Holiday Monday 26th August  
[www.hampshireopenstudios.org.uk](http://www.hampshireopenstudios.org.uk)



 **HAMPSHIRE**  
open studios

**Hampshire Open Studios is an annual art trail where the visiting public can meet artists in their homes, studios and galleries free of charge – 17th – 26th August 2024.**

With 300 venues open this year the county is packed with options to visit! In the ten days leading up to bank holiday Monday 26th August, visitors can get the opportunity to meet the makers direct and learn more about the work. Around Odiham there are loads of venues, see our website for a mini-trail to follow in your area.

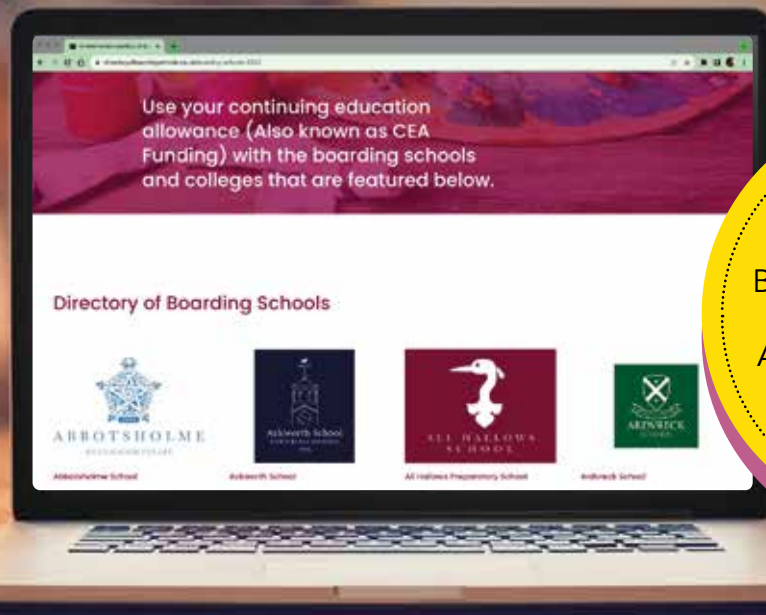
Our colour catalogue is out from mid July or view all the listings online and download our Hampshire Open Studios app available from the Google Play Store and Apple Store onto your smart phone. Visitors can also enter a prize draw to win £100 towards artwork from your favourite Hampshire Open Studios artist.

Entry is free and to find your nearest venue check the website, brochure or our app and look out for the pink direction arrows that will guide you to the artists' venues. Artists are very much looking forward to inviting you to their studios and galleries and making every effort for your visit to be enjoyable and creative.


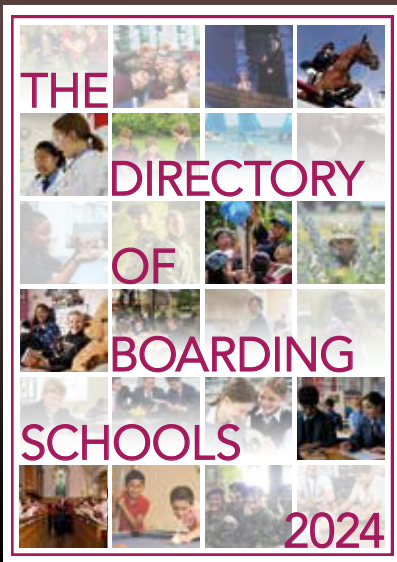
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AT MEMBERS OF THE  
ARMED FORCES



THIS IS AN INDEPENDENT  
DIRECTORY SENT TO SERVICE  
PARENTS TO ASSIST THEM IN  
FINDING THE IDEAL SCHOOL  
FOR THEIR CHILD/CHILDREN



[WWW.DIRECTORYOFBOARDINGSCHOOLS.CO.UK/SUBSCRIBE](http://WWW.DIRECTORYOFBOARDINGSCHOOLS.CO.UK/SUBSCRIBE)



**Tes Schools Awards 2022**  
Winner: Boarding School of the Year  
Gordon's School



*BOARDING IN SURREY*

# GORDON'S SCHOOL

[www.gordons.school](http://www.gordons.school)



YEARS 7, 9 AND 12  
BOARDING PLACES AVAILABLE

“  
Students thrive and make excellent progress because of the genuine and nurturing relationships they have with boarding staff.  
”

OFSTED BOARDING INSPECTION REPORT 2024

BESPOKE RESIDENTIAL BOARDING  
HOUSE FOR YEAR 7 STUDENTS

BOARDING FROM UNDER  
£800 PER TERM WITH CEA

NON-SELECTIVE LOWER SCHOOL  
PRIORITY PLACES FOR FORCES

For Open Events please visit [www.gordons.school](http://www.gordons.school)