

THE 739 FLIER



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF SCARBOROUGH AIR CADETS

The 739 Flier

Issue #3

January 2026

We Will Always Remember Them...

Squadron participates in annual acts of remembrance



By Cadet Flight Sergeant
Poppy Roxborough

On the eleventh day of the eleventh month, the squadron gathered to remember the sacrifices paid by those who have fought to protect our freedom over the years.

Remembrance Day is held across the country every year on November 11th at 11:00 a.m. It is a day when we remember and thank the people who gave their lives during times of war. Remembrance Day began when the Treaty of Versailles was signed in 1918, bringing an end to the First World War at 11:00 on the 11th day of the 11th month. At this time, we observe a two minute silence to remember the soldiers who have died in all wars and conflicts, both in the past and today.

As cadets, we proudly take part in the Remembrance Sunday service, one of the most important events in the cadet calendar. It is an occasion where we come together to show our respect and gratitude for those who have given their lives in past and present conflicts around the world.

In Scarborough, the service takes place at the cenotaph on Oliver's Mount, while a simultaneous main service is held in the harbour. The Army and Air Cadets marched onto parade in front of the cenotaph as the standard bearers took their positions on the po-



➔ The squadron stands to attention in an act of remembrance

dium at the base of the monument.

The service continued with a short reading and prayers led by the vicar, before the laying of wreaths. Representatives from all branches of the Armed Forces, emergency services, and the wider community step forward to lay wreaths of poppies at the cenotaph.

Each year, one senior and one junior cadet are selected to lay the cadets' wreath. This year, the honour was given to Corporal Macneish and Cadet Warrant Officer Speight. Following the laying of the wreaths, the Last Post was played and a two-minute silence observed as the standards were lowered.

At the conclusion of the service, we each placed the paper poppies worn

on our uniforms around our wreath on the cenotaph, marking a final personal act of remembrance, as part of a tradition that has become part of our squadron over the years.

Remembrance Day gives us the opportunity to pause, reflect, and honour the sacrifices made by those who served and lost their lives in conflict.

Taking part in the Remembrance Sunday service is a privilege for us as cadets, allowing us to show respect, discipline, and gratitude on behalf of future generations.

By remembering their courage and commitment, we ensure that their sacrifice is never forgotten and that the values they defended continue to be upheld today.



Inside this issue...

**Back to the 1940s
at Eden Camp**

**Bronze "Wings" for
Poppy and Megan**

**Cadets Dive Into
Marine
Conservation**

**A Week on Camp at
RAF Lossiemouth**

**RAF Veteran's
100th Birthday
Surprise**

Back to the 1940s at Eden Camp Museum

By Cadet
Jessica Pearson

On Saturday 11th October, a group of cadets enjoyed a fantastic day out going back in time at Eden Camp Museum as part of their 1940s Weekend.

After meeting at the squadron building, we set off on the short journey to Eden Camp near Malton. We picked a really nice day for it, the sun was out and the skies were clear.

After parking up we made our inside the museum which was jam-packed with visitors. We chose to visit during their 1940s Weekend so most people were dressed up in their best vintage clothes. There were people representing the soldiers, sailors and airmen not to mention the civilians who worked the Home Front.

One of the buildings was turned into a dance hall for the day. Everyone had the opportunity to sing and dance along to wartime music. Our group watched this for a while before moving off to look around the museum itself. It was a really good atmosphere!

If you haven't been before, Eden Camp Museum has a series of old prisoner of war huts that have been converted into exhibits that take you through the story of the war in Britain and Europe.

The various huts cover topics like the rise of the Nazi party, the Home Front and RAF Bomber Command. They were all really interesting and brought the history to life with different lighting, sounds and smells. One of my favourite huts was the U-boat one—you really felt as if you were on a German U-boat under the sea, complete with all of the knobs and dials and eerie music and sounds adding to the atmosphere.



➤ Pausing for a group photo in front of the Spitfire

The day was split into two parts and around lunchtime we all gathered in the mess hut for a break and something to eat.

After lunch, we continued to make our way through the huts, experiencing "the Blitz" and walking down the mock up of a London street during the black out. We also got to learn about Royal Navy divers during the war and the one-person submarines they used to get close to enemy ships. That was very eye-opening.

Because it was 1940s Weekend, there were also a lot of stalls scattered around the museum which we got to inspect. Some of them were displaying old items from the war. There was another that had a collection of old weapons - I had a go at handling one of the Lee Enfield rifles, it was very heavy! There was another stall that sold some vintage jewellery. Cadet Orrells and I also had our photograph taken in one of the cut-out boards!

As we made our way around the museum, the staff also put on talks about

different topics. In the afternoon, we gathered around a "bomb" that had landed in the garden to hear about the reality of bombing in England and how the Germans used to mine the coast. The staff member was very knowledgeable.

The day ended with a visit to the gift shop. There was a lot to look around. Some of the group bought model planes, magnets and key rings but I didn't buy anything.

The visit to Eden Camp was really enjoyable. I learned a lot about the war and it was really fun to see everyone dressed up in uniforms and vintage clothes. If you ever get the chance to go I would recommend it!



➤ Life on the Home Front



➤ Experiencing The Blitz



➤ Photo opportunity!

Bronze “Wings” for Poppy and Megan



By Civilian Instructor
Simon Orrells

Back in November, two cadets from the squadron were lucky enough to be selected to undertake the coveted Bronze Aviation Course at RAF Leeming.

After completing an intensive aviation training course with 642 Air Ground School (AGS) both Cadet Sergeant Poppy Roxborough and Cadet Megan Orrells successfully earned their bronze aviation training wings.



➤ Cdt Sgt Roxborough

Over the course of two days, the cadets took part in a comprehensive flying syllabus designed to test their knowledge, skill, and composure. The training included time on flight simulators, where they learned the fundamentals of navigation, aircraft handling, and flight planning.

Each cadet was required to plan a cross-country route, considering real-world factors such as airspace restrictions, weather conditions and avoiding parachuting area. The final assessment simulated a realistic in-flight scenario, including a minor technical malfunction. Despite the challenge, both cadets demonstrated calm professionalism and successfully carried out a controlled landing, showcasing their competence and confidence in the cockpit.

This achievement marks an important milestone for the Scarborough cadets, highlighting their dedication and enthusiasm for aviation. Earning the Bronze Wings badge is a significant step on the RAF Air Cadet flying pathway, opening opportunities for



➤ Cdt Megan Orrells

further advanced flight training in the future.

Civilian Instructor Simon Orrells praised the cadets' efforts, saying 'The commitment and teamwork shown by the cadets throughout this demanding course have been outstanding. They've worked hard to earn their Bronze Wings, and we're immensely proud of their success.'

The squadron continues to encourage its members to aim high — both in the air and on the ground.

Cadets Dive Into Marine Conservation

By Cadet
Eddie Titcombe

Friday 21st November was a parade evening with a difference as the cadets headed down to Scarborough Sub Aqua Club to get a taster of life under the sea.

The night started with first parade at the squadron building, then we all got on the minibus and headed down to the Sub Aqua Club in Scarborough's Old Town.

The evening was full of education about scuba diving and the ocean. we learnt about many different aspects of scuba diving. We learnt about marine biology and how we can try to save animals. We also learnt about ship wrecks and where they were found around the local area - there are more than you might think!

The instructors gave us an interesting presentation on coastal history during both world wars including a talk on the vast minefield that claimed dozens of

ships between Scarborough and Bridlington.

The club itself had a magnificent collection of signs, bells and other wonderful artefacts recovered from under the sea including a well-preserved cannon!

We were then shown the equipment the club use in their underwater adventures and saw a albums of pictures from underwater wrecks and the

distress of marine animals as a result of plastic and other rubbish in their habitats. It was fascinating to hear about the dives the members had been a part of and learning about the effects of coming up too quickly from the depths of the ocean.

The visit was an amazing eye-opener and something different from the usual parade nights. Thank you to the club for hosting us!

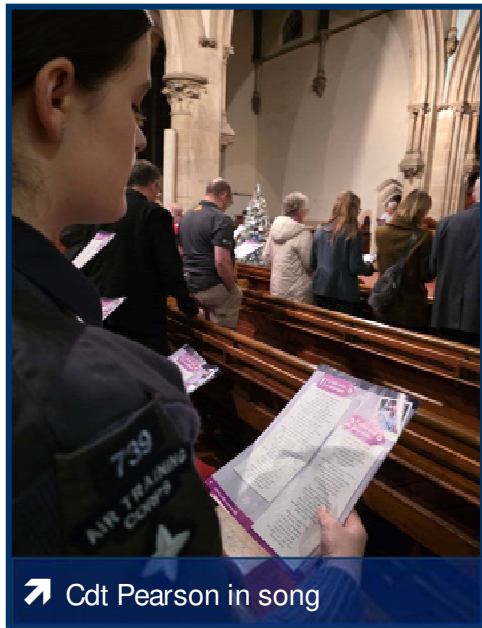


➤ The cadets learn about ocean conservation

Singing for Veterans

By Cadet
Megan Orrells

On Wednesday 3rd December, cadets and staff from the squadron attended St. Andrew's Church for the inaugural carol singing service in support of Age UK charity's Scarborough Veterans Hub.



➤ Cdt Pearson in song

The event welcomed veterans, serving members of the Armed Forces, families, and cadets for an evening of carols, conversation, and festive refreshments to the sound of the magnificent and imposing church organ.

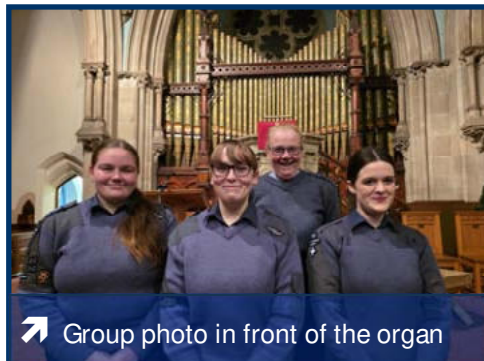
Everyone gave it their all as they put on their best singing voices for a range of traditional carols such as "We Three Kings of Orient Are" and "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" with short breaks of readings and remembrance in-between.

The service reflected the values of respect and teamwork with a local Sea Cadet being chosen to step up and light a candle in appreciation of the veterans and those who serve.

We stayed after the event and enjoyed some light refreshments along with pleasant conversations.

It was an enjoyable night for all of us and it was an excellent opportunity for the cadets to engage with members of the local community.

For everyone there, the evening was



➤ Group photo in front of the organ

not only about service but also about learning from veterans' experiences, deepening their appreciation of heritage and their sacrifices.

While the carol service has now passed, Age UK North Yorkshire Coast and Moors continues to provide vital support through its Veterans Hub, ensuring that the Armed Forces community remains connected and celebrated.

The squadron was delighted to participate in this service and we look forward to joining the veterans and other community groups for more carols next year!

Climbing the Ranks



By Civilian Instructor
Liam Cromack

The Squadron Commander recently had the pleasure of recognising the hard work of our cadets with some well-earned promotions.

Joining our NCO team will be newly promoted Cadet Corporals Isaac Macneish and Finlay Napier. Both cadets have demonstrated a high standard of uniform, discipline and enthusiasm for cadet activities. You will always see them attending our events, even some of the less exciting ones! As cadet corporals they will be junior leaders, acting as the first port of call for new cadets and instruct them on the basics of the organisation.

We are also pleased to congratulate Cadet Corporals Dylan Ferguson and Cameron Adams on their promotions to cadet sergeant. They now join the cadet senior non-commissioned officer (NCO) cadre and will be integral in set-

ting the standard for the younger cadets and non-commissioned officers to follow. Both cadets have demonstrated a keen commitment to the squadron with high attendance rates and a willingness to go above and beyond.

Last but certainly not least, Cadet Sergeant Poppy Roxborough was awarded for her dedication with a promotion to the dizzy heights of cadet flight sergeant. She will now be expected to take charge of the NCO team on a day-to-day basis ensuring high standards are maintained of all cadets.

Promotion through the ranks allows cadets to take on more responsibilities and foster their leadership skills, key attributes for whatever they decide to do in their future career. Congratulations to all of the cadets on their achievements. The squadron looks forward to watching them progress further in the future!



➤ "Flight Sergeant" Roxborough



➤ Our newly promoted NCOs



➤ RAF Lossiemouth camp photo in front of the imposing Tornado gate guardian

A Week on Camp at RAF Lossiemouth



By Cadet Corporal
Finlay Napier

One of our own was lucky enough to be selected for an exciting opportunity to spend a week on camp at RAF Lossiemouth in Scotland this autumn. Here's how he got on.

It was a long coach ride up to Scotland but after landing and getting ourselves organised in our accommodation, we were split into two flights which would be our groups throughout the week. I was placed into "A" flight.

The first day involved a really interesting visit to the Morayvia Aviation Museum where we got the opportunity to look around lots of different aircraft such as the Lightning, Jaguar and Hunter. One of the staff members was an ex-RAF Nimrod pilot and gave us an engaging talk about his service and the aircraft itself. After a few hours, we returned to Lossiemouth where we enjoyed a relaxing afternoon of games on the beach though unfortunately I didn't win any of them!

For our first night on camp, we were treated to dinner in the officer's mess which was really fancy—we even had to wear our smart Wedgewood dress for the occasion. The food was delicious.

Day Two saw us visiting the RAF Police who talked to us about their role and showed us their kit which we got to try on. We were even allowed to use their batons on the training manikins which was a lot of fun. The Dog Section then gave us a demonstration and talked to us about how their dogs are able to detect hidden drugs. That evening we had dinner in the junior

ranks mess which wasn't as fancy but the food was still amazing!

The next day, we visited the P8 Poseidon maritime patrol aircraft and got to see how they monitor the seas for other ships and submarines. The crew showed us around the aircraft and one of the pilots gave us a talk about its capabilities - for example, one of the cameras on the plane can zoom in so much it can pick up someone's face from miles away! I also got to sit in the cockpit which was interesting. We also managed to pop into Air Traffic Control who showed us their important work directing aircraft around the airfield.

In the afternoon, we visited the survival equipment fitters who are responsible for ensuring aircrew have the right gear if they were to ditch into the sea. They inflated a massive life raft which we had the chance to try out and see how many cadets could fit in it. It was fantastic but I wouldn't want to try it out for real - we were told that in the North Sea hypothermia can set in within just 30 minutes which I didn't like the sound of!

On Day Four, the RAF Regiment showed us around their hangar where we got to try on their large and very heavy kit. I tried on the body armour, gas mask and helmet which was cool though I don't think I could wear it for long. After that, the RAF Mountain Rescue Team showed us their rescue kit and we had a go at moving cadets around on stretchers - very tiring! What was interesting was their communications van which they positioned at the bottom of moun-

tains they were deployed to so that they could keep in contact with staff and patients.

Day Five was probably my favourite day of the week when we got to visit No. 2 Squadron which flies the Eurofighter Typhoon. We were shown around the aircraft by one of the technicians who taught us what the different parts of the aircraft do and its role in the RAF. The Typhoon is used for the Quick Reaction Alert and often scrambles to intercept aircraft coming into UK airspace. He told us about the missiles it carries and how accurate they can be - one can be fired from hundreds of miles away and go through a gap the size of a letterbox! They also use top-of-the-range equipment such as a helmet with a built-in display worth about £200,000. Although they let us try on some helmets, they didn't let us touch this one! After our visit to the Typhoons we stopped by the Fire Section to learn about their role and try out some of their firefighting equipment before heading back to the accommodation for the evening.

On our final day the two flights faced off against each other in a drill competition which I'm pleased to say we won! We then took part in an afternoon of physical activity where I tried out the RAF's pre-join fitness test to see if I had what it took. It was hard but I managed it! At the end of the day we had our camp photograph taken in front of the Tornado gate guardian before heading in for dinner.

I had a fantastic week on camp where I got to see and do a lot of things most people wouldn't and I made more friends along the way. I would recommend it to all our cadets!

RAF Veteran's 100th Birthday Surprise



By Cadet Sergeant
Cameron Adams

On Friday 5th December, two of our cadets proudly supported the Royal British Legion in celebrating a local Royal Air Force veteran's 100th birthday.

Many of our cadets have aspirations of joining the Royal Air Force and it is a truly interesting experience when the opportunity presents itself to meet an ex-serviceman, especially someone who fought during World War II.

Cadet Warrant Officer Hattie Speight and I were lucky enough to attend the 100th birthday celebration of local WWII veteran Bill Simmonds who fought the Axis powers during his time in the RAF, serving in India and the Far East.

So when the Royal British Legion learned that he had never received his MOD Veteran's Badge or certificate to certify his legitimacy as a veteran, they quickly set to righting this wrong in time for this special occasion.

We were absolutely delighted to accept the invitation to join Bill along with his friends and family to present his badge



➤ Presenting the Veteran's Badge to WWII RAF Veteran Bill Simmonds

at his care home in Scarborough.

The room where we got to greet him was decorated in banners celebrating the astonishing feat of personal accomplishment. It was clear from the number of people present that Bill had touched the lives of many during his time.

It was truly amazing to meet someone who had accomplished so much in his one hundred years. Though he still spoke as if he was a young man with much to say!

It was clear to see that Bill had lived a truly exciting life and to listen to someone who had served in an organisation that we aspired to join was so inspiring.

We were both immensely honoured to be asked to present him with this well-deserved birthday gift and cannot thank Bill enough for the sacrifices he must have endured during one of history's most brutal conflicts. If you ever get the opportunity to meet a veteran, please thank them for their service.

Festive Fun Night



By Civilian Instructor
Liam Cromack

On what was the final parade evening of 2025 the squadron gathered on Friday 19th December for a night of enjoyment before we closed our doors until the New Year.

The instructions to the cadets were simple: turn up in your best Christmas jumper and enjoy some fun, games and copious amounts of pizza!

And they didn't disappoint. Our cadets turned out in a variety of amusing apparel, including an especially delightful reindeer hat sported by Cadet Titcombe and Cadet Fawcett's jazzy Christmas tree glasses!

The first-half saw the group split up for a series of games, including a 739-themed special edition of *The Traitors* as moderated by Cadet Orrells. Judg-

ing by the barrels of laughter coming from the "round table", there was a lot of fun to be had.

The end of the games came right as pizza order arrived allowing the cadets to tuck in whilst the Cadet NCOs put on the traditional end-of-year "paper plate awards" celebrating the funniest and most embarrassing moments of 2025. Special congratulations go to

Cadet Napier on winning the "Should-have-been-a-Sea-Cadet Award" after falling in more times than anyone else during our paddle boarding session this summer!

Suffice to say the whole unit thoroughly enjoyed themselves. We would like to thank all of our parents, cadets, committee members and staff for supporting us this year. Merry Christmas!



➤ A wonderful display of Christmas jumpers



Quarterly Snapshot...

The last three months in pictures



Squadron Noticeboard



Submit Your Stories

Have you been flying recently? Perhaps you've been on your first camp? Whatever it is, we want to hear about it in the next issue! Submit your articles to a member of staff in good time.

Check Your Texts!

The squadron has now signed up to the Gov.uk text message notification service allowing us to inform you of upcoming events, important news and general reminders. Don't miss out! Ensure your mobile number is up-to-date on Cadet Portal.

Squadron Events

The squadron has organised a number of varied and exciting events this year, from the trip to the Royal Armouries Museum in Leeds to the 1940s Weekend at Eden Camp, with many more in the pipeline for 2026.

Please continue to check Cadet Portal on a regular basis and get your name down early to help with future planning.

Annual Awards Evening

We are delighted to announce that our annual squadron awards evening will fall on Friday 6th February, taking place at Scarborough Rugby Club from 7:15pm. All parents are invited. The event is free unless you wish to order a hot beef bap in which case a £10 payment is required beforehand (all cadets eat free). Vegetarian and gluten-free options are available on request. Payments are to be made to the squadron bank account. For more information, please email: 739@rafac.mod.gov.uk

OC's New Year Message

By Flight Lieutenant
Sue Balmford



Just over twelve months ago, I was honoured to be appointed Officer Commanding of 739 (Scarborough) Squadron for the third time. At the point of my appointment, the Squadron was already performing well and consistently upholding its established standards.

Although the Squadron was in a strong position, I was keen to see its presence amplified, both within the local community and across the wider cadet organisation. My primary objective was to foster greater engagement and enhance visibility, ensuring that the Squadron could make a more significant impact in all areas.

I am delighted to report that the cadets have responded to these challenges with admirable commitment. Their dedication has resulted in the Squadron's profile growing as I had hoped, both locally and within the broader network of cadets.

Through their hard work, the cadets have made notable progress within the training syllabus, advancing in classification and gaining numerous basic awards. These accomplishments include the introduction to the Duke of Edinburgh's Award and the development of essential first aid skills, enabling those with enthusiasm to commence and achieve bronze level awards.

Regular flying opportunities have been made available to cadets, providing valuable experience and skill development. Additionally, the cadets have increased the size of the team attending Wing Competitions Day, allowing the Squadron to be represented in every competition. They have participated in formal parades and events, including VE Day,



➔ Flt Lt Sue Balmford

Battle of Britain Day, and Remembrance Day, and have supported our veterans at a carol service and 100th birthday celebrations.

As part of our commitment to citizenship training, we have welcomed talks from the fire and police services within our local community. The Squadron has also participated in litter-picking activities in the area surrounding our base, fundraised for MENCAP, and filled shoeboxes to be distributed to children who have very little to look forward to at Christmas.

Some cadets have achieved national awards, qualifying them to train other cadets in sport and first aid. We have also commenced a series of enjoyable yet informative visits to places such as GCHQ, the Sub Aqua Club, and the Royal Armouries in Leeds.

None of these achievements would have been possible without the hard work and dedication of the cadets themselves, as well as the continued support and commitment of our adult volunteers.

Dates For Your Diary

06/02/2026 Squadron Awards Evening Scarborough Rugby Club	07/02/2026 Bronze Leadership Course Scarborough
08/02/2026 Blue Space Course Scarborough	20/02/2026 National Police Air Service Visit Wakefield