THE 739 FLIER

ROYAL AIR FORCE AIR CADETS the next generation

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF SCARBOROUGH AIR CADETS

Issue #6 October 2026



Venture Adventure!

Fun and games at Yorkshire Dales Activity Weekend

By Acting Pilot Officer Liam Cromack

Friday 25th September saw 22 cadets and staff from across the local area embark on a multi-activity weekend in the Yorkshire Dales.

After collecting all passengers, the group made the two-and-a-half hour journey across to the wonderful little village that is Malham where we settled into the local youth hostel that would become our home for the next two nights. There, we met one of our hosts for the weekend—Dec—who led the cadets through some fun and engaging leadership tasks in front of the beautifully imposing Malham Cove which served as a fantastic icebreaker for some of the cadets who didn't know each other. Dinner then followed with some free time for the cadets to mingle before lights out around 10pm ready for the second jam-packed adventure day.

Day 2 saw us all up bright and early to make the one-hour journey up to Killington Reservoir where the cadets (and staff!) were given their first task—construct a raft capable of getting your team across the lake.

It was hit and miss initially but both teams managed to construct something that vaguely resembled their goal, however disaster struck when it came to testing them out on the water as one raft collapsed completely and the other team couldn't keep themselves afloat! Despite the set backs, it was a thoroughly enjoyable morning.

Just as the group dried off, we arrived at our next stop, the Ingleton Waterfalls Trail, where they would once again be jumping into the drink. Split into, each team took it in turns to abseil down the Snow Falls Waterfall before ghyll scrambling their way up or downstream under the watchful eyes of instructors Dec and Cai. This was probably the most illuminating activity for the cadets who came away grinning from ear to ear!

But the fun didn't stop there as the group headed to our next stop a short distance away where they got to scale a small cliff and abseil their way back down to the start. With varying degrees of difficulty, only one of the cadets was able to successfully complete the hardest cliff-face—well done to Cadet Brownlie for showing everyone else up!

After a fun but tiring day, it was an early night for the cadets. The following morning we said our goodbyes to the hostel and made our way down to the National Science & Media Museum in Bradford for an educational day out.

The weekend ended as a resounding success, with all cadets exhibiting new-found confidence and lots of smiles on their faces.

Head on over to our website For more photographs of the weekend.

Inside this issue...

Big Fun at Little Rissington!

Return of Blue Fieldcraft

Practice Makes Perfect!

Cadets Host Coffee Morning for Charity



By Acting Pilot Officer Liam Cromack

On Saturday 25th July, the squadron opened its doors to the public as we hosted a coffee morning and bake sale in aid of a wonderful local charity.

When the squadron heard of the fantastic work that Havenswood Trust are doing to support children with complex neurodiverse conditions and their families, we knew we had to lend our support.

Our cadets and staff came together to invite members of the public to our unit building where they could quench their thirst and tuck into a tasty treat, all in the knowledge they were supporting a worthwhile cause. The numbers steadily trickled in over the course of the four hours and we are pleased to say we raised over £100 which has gone directly to the charity.

Thank you to each and everyone who donated and all of the cadets and staff who supported the event. If you want to find out more about Havenswood Trust, head on over to their website at: www.havenswoodtrust.org.



Return of Blue Fieldcraft

By Cadet Corporal Isaac Macneish

After recently completing their Fieldcraft Training Instructor (Restricted) course back in August, two of our adult instructors put on a fun day of basic fieldcraft training at the squadron building.

I took part in a full day of Blue Fieldcraft training at squadron, led by Pilot Officer Cromack and Sergeant Orrells. It was a busy day with lots of new skills to learn, and it gave all of us a good idea of what fieldcraft is really about.

We started with a lesson on rifle sections and how platoons are organised. Our section was split into two smaller groups called Fireteam Charlie and Fireteam Delta. We learned who is in charge, how commands are given, and why teamwork is so important when working in the field. Even though we weren't using rifles or ammo, understanding the structure helped us see how a section moves and works together.



Next, we moved on to uniform care. We were shown how to look after our uniform properly, keep it clean, and make sure it is always ready for inspections or activities.

After that, our teams learned how to pack our bergens properly so we could get to our equipment if we deployed. We were taught what items should go at the bottom, what needs to be easy to reach, and how to make sure everything is secure so it doesn't move around while walking.

Once our bergens were packed, we went outside to build two-man and three-man bashas. This was one of the most fun parts of the day. We learned how to set them up safely, how to make sure they were tight enough to stay up, and how they can be used for shelter during longer exercises.

After lunch, we learned about "why things are seen." This included silhouettes, shadows, movement, textures, and sound. It showed us how easy it is to be spotted if you don't think about your surroundings. We then practised judging distances by looking at the foreground, middle distance, and far distance.

We also learned how to search a field for objects. We were taught to look in a snake pattern, zig-zagging across the area, and if something looked out of place, we should check around it in a figure-of-eight pattern. In our teams we found things like a mess tin in the grass, an orange item in a tree, and a ration pack next to a container. We had to explain why each object might be there.

To finish the day, we learned about staying hidden at night and how natural night vision works. It was interesting to see how much you can still see without using a torch.

Overall, Blue Fieldcraft was a great experience and helped me grow more confident as a cadet. I am really looking forward to being able to move onto Bronze level where you get to camp outdoors overnight in bashas!

Big Fun at Little Rissington!

By Cadet Corporal Megan Orrells

Several months ago our very own Megan Orrells was selected to attend the prestigious Royal International Air Tattoo (RIAT) as part of the Air Cadet contingent. Unfortunately, this year's event had to be cancelled due to ongoing military operations at RAF Fairford. However, fortunately for her she got to attend another fantastic camp instead.

Back in July, I attended the replacement camp for RIAT known as "not RIAT" at RAF Little Rissington. This was my first week long camp and being the only one from the sector at a national camp was quite nerve wracking.



At the beginning of the week, my expectations were low and I had no idea what to expect. Little did I know that expectation would change so much.

We started off the week making a continuity drill routine to Uptown Funk, which completely changed my perspective of drill. Later in the afternoon we did a radio exercise, strengthening my skills and learning new things. I also got to act as the net control station, which later in the week, won me the inspire award for speaking. This award was presented by an important member of RIAT for cadets, which was an honour to achieve.

The next day was definitely the best day of the entire camp. We went for a flight in a chinook which was something I never thought I could do and was the best experience of my life. Later that day we went to fly drones, where I completed my blue drone qualification.

We started off the third day with sports which was amazing, but also tough due to the very hot weather that we had all week. Later that day, I went for a flight in the Viking T1 glider, which was absolutely amazing! The viking T1 is one of the RAF'S fastest 0-1000 feet aircraft which was definitely fun to get the chance.

On the final day, we were lucky to get a visit from the RAF regiment giving us lessons in fieldcraft, why things are seen, what gets packed in a Bergen and how to camouflage ourselves properly. We also had a visit from 3 Mobile Catering Squadron (3MCS), they taught us how they can make different foods and we even got the opportunity to bake our own brownies.



Our final activity was STEM where we completed an activity of planning how to support an area that was experiencing flooding and making different decisions along the way.

Activities like these I was able to bring back to squadron and show the younger cadets, what you can experience when you go on camps like these.

On the final night we had a party and played some bingo. We also had celebrations in which Jaguar Flight (my group) won best flight for everything we had completed during the week.

Overall, it was a camp I will never forget and I wish I could go back! I cannot wait for RIAT next year!



Practice Makes Perfect!



By Civilian Instructor Andy Macneish

On Saturday 5th September, ten cadets from the squadron completed their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh practice expedition utilising the skills they have been learning in the classroom environment.

This exercise served as the vital pre-qualifying training event the main event, designed to ensure every participating cadet is fully prepared for the physical, navigational, and practical demands of their assessed expedition.

The day commenced at the Squadron, where Squadron Leader Charlotte Bridges delivered a detailed safety and operational briefing. This included guidance on route planning, hazard awareness, and teamwork expectations. Route maps and compasses were then issued to all participants, accompanied by precise instructions outlining the bearings, grid references, and location of the initial waypoint to be reached.

With preparations complete, the cadets were divided into two tactical teams and departed from the Squadron building, navigating independently toward Newby playing fields.

This first leg allowed instructors to observe each team's ability to interpret map features, maintain accurate pacing, and apply compass bearings confidently. Upon reaching the fields, both groups began their ascension toward St Catherine's Hospice, demonstrating steady progress and effective communication.

From the hospice, the teams followed the bridle path across open fields, heading toward Raincliffe Woods. To test their route-planning skills further, one team proceeded clockwise around the woodland perimeter while the second team advanced anticlockwise, ensuring both groups experienced varied terrain and decision-making challenges.

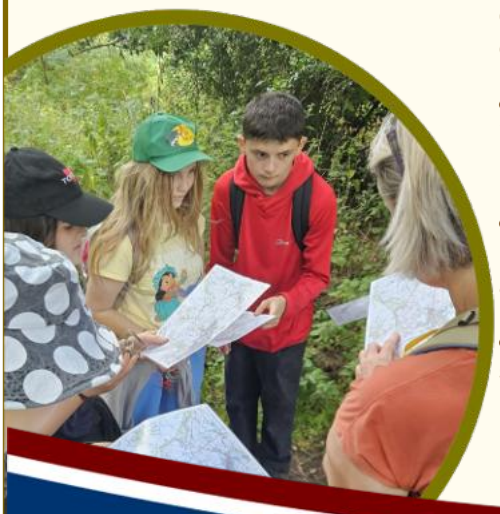
Despite taking opposing routes, the two teams successfully synchronised their timing and reunited at a high-ground position behind the GCHQ fields and communications arrays.

After reconvening, they completed a full circumnavigation of Raincliffe Woods before navigating back to the Squadron base, concluding the morning's practical navigation phase.

CI Howe from Ryedale Squadron lead the afternoon session, the focus shifted from navigation to hands-on fieldcraft assessments essential for safe and efficient expedition conduct.

Instructors guided and evaluated cadets across several core competencies:

- Shelter Management: Correct pitching, inspection, and packing of multi-person expedition tents.
- Meal Planning & Hygiene: Safe food handling routines, ration organisation, and hygiene discipline.
- Expedition Cooking: Operating camp stoves confidently to prepare warm, high-energy meals.



Throughout the training day, cadets demonstrated enthusiasm, teamwork, and resilience.

Pre-qualifying events like this are crucial, ensuring every participant is competent, self-sufficient, and safety-conscious before embarking on their official Bronze DofE assessment weekend.

I wish all the cadets attending the upcoming weekend a safe and successful expedition.

The Air Cadets is one of the largest providers of The Duke of Edinburgh's Award in the UK. The three levels - Bronze, Silver and Gold - are achieved by completing activities such as volunteering, hill walking, sports and charity fundraising.

The blue "Pre-DofE" award is unique to the Air Cadets and serves to give young people an introduction to the award before fully committing themselves.

Recognised by employers, the Award demonstrates the skills, determination and resilience of our cadets.

Remembering "The Few"



By Cadet Thomas Crawford

Sunday 20th September saw the squadron gather in remembrance of those pilots and airmen who paid the ultimate price for our freedom during the Battle of Britain.

The squadron had a good turnout of cadets, all immaculately dressed in their smart uniforms, to honour the brave men and women who served during the Battle of Britain. The cadets joined local veterans, the and members of the community to pay their respects to those who fought to defend Britain during the Second World War.

Following the church service, attendees marched to nearby Dean Road Cemetery for closing prayers and a wreath-laying ceremony at the grave of Flying Officer William Hugh Coverley, a local RAF serviceman who lost his life during air combat in September 1940.

The cadets represented the squadron with pride and dignity throughout the morning, demonstrating their respect for the sacrifices made by previous generations.

Events such as these provide a valuable opportunity for cadets to learn about the RAF's history and reflect on the courage, dedication and bravery of those who served.

We were proud to take part in this important act of remembrance, ensuring that the sacrifices of the Battle of Britain generation are never forgotten.

A big thank you to all parents and carers for their continued support in enabling our cadets to attend this important service in the squadron's calendar. Your support is greatly appreciated and helps ensure our young people can take part in these meaningful acts of remembrance.

Saluting The Fallen At Eden Camp

By Cadet Corporal Eddie Titcombe

The squadron joined forces with cadets from Ryedale Squadron on Sunday 13th September to participate in the largest gathering of Armed Forces Veterans in the north of England.

The day started at the squadron building when we boarded the minibus for the 30-minute drive over to Eden camp, arriving shortly after 1000.

We then got the chance to look around the museum for a few hours which was really interesting. We got to view a lot of the old vehicles and the wonderful displays of what life was like during the wars in Great Britain. My favourite was the submarine hut.

At lunch time we met up and discussed the plan for the rest of the day, including the parade of veterans and standards that was the main event that afternoon.

Just before 1400 we formed up in height order in the car park as we got ready to march onto the parade ground but not before getting a group picture in front of the hawker hurricane replica aircraft at the front gate.

We then marched down to the coach park where there was a short wait before the parade began. The main parade saw us march down the main path through the museum and into the vehicle warehouse before coming out the other side onto the parade ground with lots of museum visitors watching us. There we stood to attention as we paid our respects to those who have died during conflict, while defending our country.

We then marched back the way we came and then we had about 10 minutes before the minibus departed.

We had many positive comments passed from the museum visitors and military veterans in attendance. Mainly about our uniforms and composure during the service, they also thanked us for showing up and representing the Royal Air Force. This was a really good day out and I was proud to have taken part in the parade.



Honouring Merchant Navy Day

By Cadet Jack Canvin

On Thursday 3rd September, the squadron was proud to be invited to attend a short service in recognition of the essential contributions of the Merchant Navy over the years with particular focus on their role during the Second World War.

The service took place on Scarborough's own World War II Dunkirk "Little Ship", the MV Regal Lady which completed three wartime trips to Dunkirk in 1940 and rescued over 1200 soldiers. It was on this Little Ship on a drizzly September evening that the Air Cadets, Royal British Legion, Sea Cadets and local veterans came together to remember the contribution that the Merchant Navy made during the war and continues to make to this day.



We stood to remember the men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice to keep Britain running by importing tonnes of fuel, oil and raw materials during the war, by ferrying hundreds of thousands of troops across the oceans. The brave men and women were civilian volunteers and professionals.

The service was conducted by Reverend Sam Treadwell. At the start of the service the standards were presented. Our squadron standard bearers were Cadet Corporal Megan Orrells and Cadet Corporal Isaac Macneish.

During the course of the service we heard poignant readings including the seafarers psalm, and sang with reverence to "Eternal Father, strong to save". We listened with deep respect and gratitude as the words (The Exhortation) 'they shall not grow old as we that are left grow old...' were spoken and the last post was played at which point the standards were lowered in respect.

We stood in personal prayer and reflection during the two minute silence, a wreath was then laid for those who were lost to the sea. We then sang the National Anthem with pride. The service was then concluded with prayers and a blessing.

We then were able to go on board The Regal Lady for a buffet and chat to the veterans and other attendees.

We were proud to stand alongside other cadets in thanks and memory of brave men and women who gave their lives in times of conflict, we as the younger generation will ensure this was not in vain or forgotten.

"When you go home, tell them of us and say, for your tomorrow, we gave our today"



Squadron Stall Returns To Morrisons



By Acting Pilot Officer Liam Cromack

After our previously successful day back in May, the squadron recently returned to Morrisons to spread the word about the fantastic opportunities available in the Air Cadets.

As part of the inaugural National Cadets Week, the squadron returned to the Morrisons supermarket in Eastfield to talk to customers about our organisation and raise much needed funds for our equipment and training.

Armed with our custom publicity materials, cadets worked in shifts throughout the day commencing at 10am and concluding at 6pm. We are pleased to say we had lots of welcome conversations with passing members of the public going about their shopping who also donated their spare change which was gratefully received.

Cadet Corporal Isaac Macneish, Cadet Jamie Markas and Cadet Kyle Thomson even put on a demonstration of CPR showing one of the vital skills our cadets. All under the watchful gaze of our squadron mascot, Flt Lt Spencer!

In the end we raised a little over £355 which will go towards the purchase of new training equipment allowing us to make the cadet experience more interactive.

We would like to thank everyone who paid us a visit and donated to our cause. We would also like to give a massive thanks to Morrisons for allowing us to return to the store for a second time this year.



Quarterly Snapshot...

The last three months in pictures



View more photographs on our website

Squadron Noticeboard

Could you Volunteer?

The squadron is seeking new applicants to join as adult staff to bolster our dedicated team and allow us to provide more opportunities to the cadets. Could you?
Email us on **739@rafac.mod.gov.uk**

Remembrance Season

It is rapidly approaching that time of year when we pause to remember the servicemen and women who have given their lives for our freedom in conflicts past and present.

It is hugely important that cadets make every effort to attend upcoming remembrance events to show our support and admiration for those who have served our country.

Please ensure you confirm your attendance at the earliest opportunity by signing up on Cadet Portal today.

Submit Your Stories!

Have you recently been flying? Earned your first badge? Perhaps you really enjoyed our last visit? Whatever it is, we want to hear about it in the next issue! Submit your articles to a member of staff in good time.

Follow us on Facebook!

For those of you who are new to the unit, be sure to check out the squadron's Facebook page for the latest news and updates. And don't forget to like, follow and share the page with your friends and family!

Finding Their Way

By Cadet Corporal Eddie Titcombe

One of the many subjects a cadet learns in their training is how to read a map. On Friday 11st September, cadets put this into practice with a navigation exercise through Forge Valley.

The night started at 1830 when the bus left the squadron. It took us about 30 minutes to arrive at our destination where we then got into groups with a map and compass in each group.



My group was the first to lead us. We headed up to the Ayton castle which was about a 10-minute walk from where we got dropped off. After that another group lead on to the start of the boardwalk. However, due to it being repaired, the boardwalk was closed so we had to reassess where we were going to go which took us a bit of time as we had to plan our new route again.

The last group lead us back to where we thought there was a bridge, however the map was slightly outdated and there was no bridge which made things a little more difficult.

After that, we walked back the way we had come, past the castle and the arrival destination. We then walked up the road to East Ayton petrol station.

We then took the 30-minute drive back to the squadron. We arrived at about 2030, we then took part in some activities such as modelling and doing a bit of drill before duties commenced and we had to pack our compasses and maps back up and put them away.

Although we got lost, I still think this was good practice for our Duke of Edinburgh's award. I have done map reading in the classroom but putting it into practice for real was very fun, especially when we had to re-plan our route after the boardwalk was closed.

I would recommend this type of exercise to all cadets as it teaches teamwork as well map reading. Thank you to all the staff who arranged it and came along with us on the day.

Upcoming Dates For Your Diary

01/11/2026 Planting of the Crosses Ceremony Alma Square, Scarborough	**08/11/2026** Remembrance Sunday Service Oliver's Mount, Scarborough
14/11/2026 Blue Space Course Cadet Centre, Scarborough	**21/11/2026** First Aid Training Weekend 2168 (Yeadon) Squadron
05/02/2027 Wing Training Weekend CTC Driffield	**05/07/2027** Gold DofE Sailing Expedition Ullapool, Scotland

Sign up for these events (and more) on Cadet Portal