

# High-Light



THE TRI-SERVICE MAGAZINE OF THE HIGHLAND RESERVE FORCES' AND CADETS' ASSOCIATION



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**Reserves and  
Cadets shine at  
Westminster**  
Pages 8&9



# Taking stock of recent achievements

**W**ith 2016 unfolding at a great rate of knots and with our eyes focused on the road ahead it's all too easy to move on without finding the time to reflect on recent events and take stock of what has been achieved.

One of the advantages of maintaining an in-house journal such as *High-Light* is that it offers us an opportunity to record and celebrate both the activities and achievements of the Reserves and Cadets that we exist to support, and what we in Highland RFCA, staff, members and particularly voluntary office holders, have contributed to this support.

Key amongst these supporters is of course our Chairman, and it was with a mixture of sadness and gratitude (and, given the individual in question, no little humour!) that the President bade farewell to Colonel Angus Taverner, our departing Chairman of over six years, at the Highland RFCA Annual Association Meeting in March (you will find a full report on the AAM on Page 4).

Angus really has been an enormous asset to the Association throughout his tenure. His energy, enthusiasm, erudition and wise counsel having been valued by us all; I owe him personal thanks for overseeing and steering my first few months in the job.

As you will know, Angus is succeeded as Chairman by Captain Nick Dorman, whose words you will find elsewhere in this edition, the position of Vice-Chairman Navy vacated by him being filled by Rear Admiral Chris Hockley, Chief Executive Officer of the MacRobert Trust and long-term friend of the Association.

Chris joins an illustrious band of naval office-holders in the Association and boasts a CV that includes very strong links with our region and role. In a 37-year naval career, not



Rear Admiral Chris Hockley.



Brigadier Dodson speaking to members at the AAM in Perth.

only has he been instrumental in the Future Aircraft Carrier programme that ultimately gave birth to the new carriers now taking shape at Rosyth, commanded the Faslane Naval Base on the Clyde and served as Flag Officer Scotland, Northern England and Northern Ireland, but has also been closely involved with the Maritime Reserve and the Sea Cadets, including the sponsorship of Naval Cadet forces and the leadership, at Navy Command Board level, of RNR and RMR forces.

In his day job looking after the MacRobert Trust, amongst much else Chris continues to work with his team to make the freshly-renovated Douneside House ready for its first guests this summer. We wish him a warm welcome in his new role within the Association, an appointment for which he is eminently well-qualified.

Elsewhere in this edition you will find much that I hope is of interest, including an article on our briefing to Peers and MPs at the Palace of Westminster in February, which attracted no fewer than 40 guests including three Ministers, and an update on the progress of Project Revive, discussed briefly at the AAM.

This RFCA-wide project, which is designed to ensure that we continue to be relevant to Defence, and which is due to report its findings this summer, may influence the way we do our business in the future.

For now though I welcome you to Issue 13 and invite you to reflect on a busy and productive few months.

*Mark Dodson*



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# Association members gather in Perth

## HRFCA held its Annual Association Meeting at Perth on 12 March.

Members of the Association from across the Highlands and Islands gathered at Queen's Barracks for the day of briefings and discussion on a range of RFCA and defence-related subjects.

Guest speakers were Lieutenant General Robin Brims, Chairman of the Council of RFCAs and Mr Julian Brazier, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State and Minister for Reserves.

Lt Gen Brims offered a fascinating insight into the challenges and opportunities represented by the RFCA 2020 programme, with Mr Brazier providing a wide-ranging and thought-provoking keynote address.

The speakers were bolstered by members of the Cadet Presentation Team. Kyle Buchan, Eilidh Urquhart and adult volunteer Marci Alzamora, described in their own words their experiences in the cadets and how they had benefitted personally.

A further contribution made to the day by the cadets was a rousing Beating Retreat by the Cadet Pipes and Drums. Mr Brazier, who took the salute, complimented them on their playing and drill.

The meeting's afternoon session included single-service updates by senior leaders.

While acknowledging the scale of the military and budgetary challenges faced by each Service, the overall message was a positive one, particularly for Scotland: Reserve recruitment and retention remained on track; the Armed Forces continued to enjoy the support of the public and their elected representatives across Scotland; and the country would benefit from some of the most significant announcements made in the recent Strategic Defence and Security Review, including the basing in Scotland of all the Royal Navy's submarines, the RAF's new P-8 Poseidon maritime patrol aircraft and an additional squadron of Typhoon fast jets.

A common theme throughout the day was the important role played by HRFCA in supporting the Armed Forces and the Service Cadet organisations; the network that the Association represents and the wealth of knowledge and experience – and influence – available through its members provided continuity and stability in a rapidly-evolving social, political and economic landscape. As one speaker said: 'If the RFCA didn't exist we'd have to invent it'.

The AAM marked two more important events: firstly the retirement, after



Left: Chief Executive Mark Dodson addresses the members as does (right) Minister for Reserves Julian Brazier and (below) outgoing Chairman Angus Taverner.



more than six years, of Association Chairman Colonel Angus Taverner, and the appointment of his successor, Captain Nick Dorman. And secondly, it was the inaugural AAM for Chief Executive Brigadier Mark Dodson, now some eleven months into the job.

The Chief Executive briefed the members on the highlights and achievements of HRFCA since the last AAM: while the Association remained in good health, a range of strategic challenges including new Service Level Agreements, Next Generation estates contracts and the ongoing pan-RFCA establishment review, would have a bearing on the Association's future business.

The AAM concluded with closing remarks from Rear Admiral Mike Gregory, President of HRFCA, who thanked all for their participation and continuing contributions to the Association.

Ultimately, though, the success of the day itself relied on the energetic and proactive support of the Commanding Officer of the 7th Battalion of The Royal Regiment of Scotland, Lieutenant Colonel Piers Strudwick, and his team who, as the resident unit at Queen's Barracks provided the venue, facilities and personnel essential to the smooth running of the event, and whose contribution was gratefully acknowledged by the Association.





## Gun Salute marks Queen's 90th birthday

**The Queen's 90th birthday was celebrated in style with a 21-gun salute at Stirling Castle.**

The event was hosted by HRFCA and Tayforth Universities Officers Training Corps, whose officer cadets – under the watchful eye of the gunners of 212 (Highland) Bty, 105 Regt Royal Artillery and their own Commanding Officer Lt Col Gregor Lindsay – fired the salute and provided music.

Principal guest at the Youth, Students and Education-themed event was Stirling Provost Councillor Mike Robbins who took the salute. Other guests included Sir Peter Downes, the Principal of Dundee University; Margaret Munckton, the Principal of Perth College; Mark Batho, the vice-Principal (University Services) at Abertay University; Brigadier Gary

Deakin, the Commander of 51st Infantry Brigade, and student union/association representatives from Stirling and Dundee.

Guests were welcomed into the Regimental Museum of The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders by HRFCA Chief Executive Brigadier Mark Dodson and given a talk on the history of gun salutes from Major Lee Patchell of TUOTC.

Guests then moved outside to watch the perfectly-executed salute, which was carried out on a memorably sunny and warm Spring day.

Following the firing Provost Robbins, Lt Col Lindsay and Maj Patchell thanked and inspected the gun crews.

The 21 April ceremony was rounded off with three cheers for Her Majesty and a light lunch back at the museum.



**Army Reserve  
Tour success**  
– See page 10



**Cadets welcomed  
to Holyrood**  
– See page 16



# HRFCA welcomes new Association Chairman

**N**ick Dorman has taken over the Association chair from Angus Taverner. Below we hear from Nick and learn more about his varied career in the Royal Naval Reserve.



Captain N R V Dorman  
RD ADC RNR

**“I’d like to start by passing on my thanks, the thanks of the Board and the Association to my predecessor, Colonel Angus Taverner, who has done such a tremendous job at steering us through six turbulent years of major change following SDSR 2010.**

“Angus has been exceptionally good at putting issues into context, ensuring they are given considered thought, and identifying how we should adapt in order to remain relevant and useful to both Defence and the wider society we represent; his contributions have been considerable. He has been a highly-respected voice within both the Association and within the Council Board and Strategy Group in London where he

significantly influenced the FR2020 debate and how that was then delivered. Angus has been an excellent ambassador for the Highlands.

“Moving forward the Board and Executive are working hard across a wide range of both new and existing challenges. The future of the individual Associations is certainly stronger and more resilient through the corporate approach, in effect 13 RFCAs acting as one, but we will carry on as this matures and retain our unique Highland character.

“Through the FR20 White Paper the RFCA gained real power and influence, particularly through the External Scrutiny Team which reports to Parliament through the Secretary of State, to shape Defence’s thinking and actions on Reserve and Cadet matters, prominence in the corridors of power that we have not

hitherto experienced; and that influence works best when our Membership is engaged and counsels the Board on activity across the Region, and for that I sincerely thank you.

“Our future challenges are clear, and quite stark in areas around arresting the decline of the estate infrastructure, and we have in our Chief Executive Brigadier Mark Dodson, and his team at Seathwood, the experience, professionalism and enthusiasm to deliver sustained capability across the Highlands.”

**Nick joined the Royal Naval Reserve at HMS Camperdown in Dundee in 1984 and, after attending Britannia Royal Naval College, he served at sea on a variety of Ton class mine counter measures vessels.**

He sailed as the Navigating Officer and First Lieutenant on a number of River class minesweepers, Commanded HMS Archer and, in 1996, took

part in the United States Navy exchange programme serving in Corpus Christi, Texas.

On promotion he joined the 1st Squadron Mine Counter Measures Battlestaff – deploying to the Mediterranean, Black Sea, Baltic and North Atlantic.

On completion of three years in Command of HMS Scotia he was appointed Captain Operational Capability, heading Maritime Reserve C41STAR, Intelligence, Medical, Logistics and Chaplaincy specialisations and in 2012 he was appointed as Captain North leading the RNR in Northern England, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

He is Vice Chairman (Navy) on the Council of RFCAs and in his civilian career he is a director of a ship owning company.

He lives in Angus with his wife Lesley and their three young children.

## Reservists and service leavers in demand

**N**ew research from the Federation of Small Businesses (FSB) has found that smaller businesses are increasingly positive about employing Reservists and service leavers.

The number of firms reluctant to take on a Reservist has fallen dramatically over the past three years, with many more business owners saying they can see the benefits of hiring those with service experience. The change demonstrates the progress made in improving the package of support available to small businesses employing Reservists.

The study is the first ever to look at the employment of service leavers, in addition to Reservists, from a small business perspective. While the attitude of employers to taking on those with service experience is widely positive, the research also revealed a clear preference

among smaller firms for employing service leavers over Reservists with two in three (65%) saying they would be keen to take on service leavers. The number of small firms saying they would actively consider employing a Reservist has increased too, up from 45% in 2013



to 49% in 2016. This is a welcome sign and shows more and more small firms recognise the benefits of taking on a Reservist. However, the FSB is calling on Ministers to commit to further support for smaller employers.

Mike Cherry, Policy Director for the

FSB, said: “Employers always want to find the most talented and highly-skilled people for the jobs they create. Reservists and service leavers often bring unique skills and qualities to the job, especially around leadership and management, and businesses clearly recognise that.

“The Government has made good progress towards encouraging employers to take on Reservists. The financial support now on offer to a small employer can help to cover the cost when a member of staff is deployed – but there are clearly still challenges to overcome. We would like to see more small businesses supporting our troops. They serve our country and the skills they come back with are diverse and often invaluable.”

Minister for Reserves, Julian Brazier MP, said: “I’d like to thank the growing number of small businesses making the effort to serve their country by supporting our Service personnel.”

# Abertay first to sign new-look Covenant



Major General Nick Ashmore and Professor Nigel Seaton at the signing.



Maj Gen Ashmore talks to a group of pipers.

**Abertay University has signed the UK Armed Forces Covenant, pledging to support the country's servicemen and women wherever and however it can.**

The Covenant commits organisations that sign it to ensure no member of the Armed Forces should suffer any disadvantage as a result of their service.

Professor Nigel Seaton, Principal and Vice-Chancellor of Abertay University, signed the Covenant at a passing-out parade for the Tayforth University Officers Training Corps (TUOTC) at Barry Buddon Camp near Carnoustie on 16 January.

The signing – organised by HRFA – was witnessed by Major General Nick Ashmore OBE, as General Officer Scotland, the Army's senior officer in Scotland.

Dundee-based Abertay is the first university in the UK to sign the Armed Forces Covenant in its new form, which was only introduced in January.

To date eight other UK universities are signatories to the Covenant in its earlier form.

Professor Seaton said: "The Covenant sets out the obligations that the UK owes to the members of its Armed Forces, who sacrifice some civilian freedoms and face danger and the risk of injury and death while in service.

"Abertay is proud to sign up to the

Covenant to acknowledge these sacrifices and to pledge to do what it can to support members of the Armed Forces within the University community."

Abertay students make up almost half of Tayforth UOTC's B Squadron, which also includes students from the University of Dundee. The rest of Tayforth UOTC includes students from the universities of St Andrews and Stirling.

Three Abertay students completed the first part of their UOTC training at the passing out parade. Christopher Low from North Berwick, and Katie Reid from Dundee are both studying BSc (Hons) Sports Coaching, while Gus Venables from Kelso is studying for a Bachelor of Laws degree.



The TUOTC parade.



Maj Gen Ashmore and Professor Seaton with Abertay students



Professor Seaton inspects the troops.



# Reserves, Cadets shine at Westminster



From left: Leading Cadet Kyle Buchan, Lord West, Commander Lesley Stephen, Captain Peter Adams, Able Cadet Dannielle Hannah, Captain Chris Smith and HRFCA Chief Executive Brigadier Mark Dodson.

**H**ighland and Lowland RFCAs hosted a highly-successful Parliamentary Reception in the grand surroundings of the Palace of Westminster in London on 23 February.

The event was held to explain to Peers and MPs the role and responsibilities of the Associations and to provide a platform for key members of the Chain of Command in Scotland, Reservists and Cadets to engage with members of both Houses.

High-profile guests included Reserves Minister Julian Brazier, Armed Forces Minister Penny Mordaunt and former NATO Secretary General Lord Robertson.

They were hosted by a dynamic group of senior military officers, representatives from Reserve and Cadet units from all services in Scotland and staff from both RFCAs including respective chief executives Brigadier Mark Dodson and Colonel Robbie Gibson.

The two-hour event also provided a platform for a Reservist and Cadet to talk about their experiences in uniform.

Following speeches by event sponsor Brendan O'Hara MP and HRFCA Chairman Angus Taverner, Commanding Officer of 205 Field Hospital, Colonel Helen Singh, took to the floor.

As part of her briefing, she said: "Joining the Reserves was one of the best experiences I've had, being able to deploy on operations to care for soldiers and civilians has certainly been the highlight of my career and it has been an absolute privilege to treat them."

Col Singh was followed by Leading Cadet Kyle Buchan (Peterhead Sea Cadet Corps), who shared his experiences of life in the Sea Cadets.

He said: "Through Sea Cadets I've gained



Armed Forces Minister Penny Mordaunt with Cadet Warrant Officer Matthew Haley and Cadet Sergeant Eilidh Ratray.



Dundee East MP Chris Law takes a selfie.



Captain Robbie Kennedy of the Aberdeen detachment of RMR Scotland with Aberdeen North MP Kirsty Blackman.

a Royal Yacht Association power boating qualification. That allows you to take a 25-ft powerboat up to two nautical miles out to sea. I don't know about you, but I don't know any of my friends who can take a powerboat out unsupervised!"

He added: "One of the most important things I've got from Cadets is the friendships I've made, because you meet

people from all over the world. So that and the confidence it has given me are the most important things I feel I've gained out of Cadets."

The event was organised by HRFCA and sponsored by Mr O'Hara and attended by around 40 MPs and Peers from across the parties and drawn mainly from Scottish constituencies.





Leading Cadet Kyle Buchan (Peterhead SCC) tells the audience about his experiences as a Sea Cadet.



Black Watch ACF Staff Sergeant Instructor Marcelina Alzamora meets Ian Blackford MP.



Stirling MP Steven Paterson (left) with Cadet Sergeant Eilidh Rattray and Group Captain Jim Leggat.



Brigadier Gary Deakin (Commander, 51 Brigade) meets Cadet Lucy Burnside (1 Highlanders).



Event sponsor Brendan O'Hara MP with Cadet Corporal Katie Conway (Angus & Dundee).



Reserves Minister Julian Brazier.





# Army Reserve Highland Tour success



Members of the AR Highland Tour outside the British Heart Foundation shop in Cupar.

## The Army Reserve Highland Tour ran from 13-27 January, visiting towns and cities across Scotland.

The 7 SCOTS-led tour set off from the Battalion's headquarters in Perth and, over the fortnight, visited locations in Stirling, Dunkeld, Aviemore, Inverness, Elgin, Aberdeen, Montrose, Arbroath, Dundee and various towns in Fife.

The aim of the tour was to raise the profile of the Army Reserve, promote the varied opportunities available within units, encourage discussion about the benefits of being a Reservists and to attract young men and women to join up.

The 7SCOTS convoy stopped off to conduct

brief engagements before moving on to the next location.

HRFCA visited the tour during its stop-off in Cupar on 25 January where it was supported by Reservists from the town's Scottish and North Irish Yeomanry squadron.

We caught up with Captain Mike Dunnigan who spoke about the public response to the tour. He said there had been nothing but a positive response from people across the Highlands to the tour and they had received a warm welcome wherever they had gone.

A variety of other units – including 3 SCOTS 4 SCOTS, 71 Engr Regt, 154 Regt RLC, 105 Regt RA, 225 Med Regt, 106 Bn REME, 32 Sig Regt and 205 Field Hospital – also provided support for the tour.



RRS drummer Davy Hay.



British Heart Foundation staff were treated to some music.





## Night to remember at Oliver Barracks

**D**undee's Oliver Barracks was the venue for a successful Dundee & Angus Chamber of Commerce networking event sponsored by HRFCA.

Host unit for the evening – attended by 50 Chamber members – was A Company of 7SCOTS with input from 225 Medical Regiment, 205 Field Hospital, 2 Signal Squadron and 105 Regiment Royal Artillery.

Activities kicked off with an introduction and welcome by Tim Allan, president of the Chamber of Commerce.

Mr Allan spoke of the “two-way street between business and Reserves” and thanked 7SCOTS' Commanding Officer

Lt Col Piers Strudwick for hosting the 4 February event.

The audience of 50 then listened to a short presentation from HRFCA Regional Employer Engagement Director Ron Macgregor who emphasised the extra value Reservists can give to their civilian employers.

He added: “The Reservist brings a huge number of skills to the military party and a lot of those skills – including leadership, team-building and assertiveness – are then taken into their civilian life. All those skills don't go away when they take off their uniform, they are taken into their jobs.”

Mr Macgregor encouraged Chamber member to give their full support to any members of staff they have in the Reserves:

“They are an asset to you.”

The event then moved outside where a military capability demonstration took place with a simulated artillery and mortar response to incoming fire on a FOB (forward operating base). With five artillery rounds and the same number of mortar rounds ‘fired’ onto enemy positions it was safe to move on to see 225 Medical Regiment treating a simulated casualty who had suffered a leg wound. The casualty – in pain and bleeding heavily – was quickly and expertly assessed and treated before being moved to an ambulance for transportation to a field hospital.

Scenario over, the crowd dispersed to look at stands featuring weapons and

equipment used by Reservists who were on hand to talk visitors through the kit.

The evening ended with thanks from Lt Col Strudwick and a strong feeling that each and every visitor now had a greater appreciation for the work of the Reserves – a feeling supported by the positive feedback both on the night and in the subsequent social media response.





# Shaping Highland RFCA for the future

**A**t the beginning of March, HRFCA staff, together with their colleagues across all 13 RFCAs, were updated on the progress being made in work to ensure that the RFCAs continue to be relevant to Defence into the future.

This work, being undertaken under the banner of 'Project Revive', was initiated as a result of the Paterson Report of 2015 which, in confirming the importance of the RFCAs, also made a number of recommendations. These included the need to explore the extent to which there is scope for a more 'corporate' approach to the way we do business; this requirement is supported by all RFCAs.

An important element of Project Revive is to make sure that the RFCAs' staffing structures are fit for purpose. A process has therefore begun to analyse the work and establish what the resulting core working structures should look like, adjusting them as necessary to reflect the differing social, geographical and economic factors influencing each region.

This will make sure that in assessing mandated RFCA outputs, an agreed national baseline will allow 'like-for-like' comparisons to be made across the country. With RFCAs' outputs based on the three 'pillars of delivery' – managing the Volunteer Estate, Engagement, and Cadets and Youth respectively, all supported in turn by the very necessary and relevant Support Services, the results of Project Revive will lead to the identification of the best organisational model for the future. Inevitably there may be some changes to existing structures, including in the Estates 'pillar', though there will remain the flexibility for Chief



HRFCA will continue to deliver effective and professional support to the Volunteer Reserve and the Service Cadet Organisations of which they are justifiably proud.

Executives to manage their Associations within agreed financial and manning limits to deliver their core outputs.

To achieve this, in common with the other RFACs, HRFCA will be reviewed by a peer group panel chaired by the Council of RFCAs' Chief of Staff and with three other Chief Executives plus an independent member.

The same process will also be applied to the CRFCA Directorate itself.

In its March 2016 note to staff, Council was keen to stress that Project Revive is not a savings exercise but one intended to underwrite the long-term health of the RFCAs and their ability to continue to deliver the efficient, effective and professional support to the Volunteer Reserve and the Service Cadet Organisations of which they are justifiably proud.

Chief Executive HRFCA emphasised this point in briefing the 'home team', and thought it likely that any more detailed information on the implications for individuals of Project Revive would not be available until its work has been examined and endorsed by the Council of RFCAs, probably this summer, so in the meantime

it will be business as usual. In broad terms the Project is expected to meet the following milestones:

- By July 2016 – confirmation of the core structures.
- By September 2016 – authority from Council to proceed.
- From September onwards – implementation of any resultant changes, the timescale for which will be the subject of further work.

From all of this it is clear that the RFCAs are very much at the early stages of Project Revive, and it will be some time before any decisions are made. RFCA Chief Executives and the Council of RFCAs have committed themselves to staff consultation and, if necessary, consultation with the Trade Unions, at every stage of the process.

We will be sure to keep the membership up to date as this significant and important work continues.

In closing, one final point to note is that the Army Cadet Force Permanent Support Staff structures in the ACF battalions remain outwith the scope of this review.

**Volunteer  
Estate**

**Engagement**

**Cadets  
and Youth**





Angus addressing MPs, Peers and guests at the Westminster reception and (inset) delivering his final speech as Chairman at the annual association meeting.

## Thanks and best wishes from ex-chairman

**D**eparting HRFCA Chairman Angus Taverner handed over the Chairman's baton to Nick Dorman at the AAM in March. Now living in Oxford, Angus wanted us to share a message of appreciation to members and staff of the Association.

I would like to thank all the members and staff of Highland RFCA who contributed so very kindly and thoughtfully to my leaving present.

Now that I have opened the envelope, I am frankly bowled over, not to say flabbergasted, by the extraordinary generosity of everyone. It is also extremely clever and thoughtful of you to direct that I should spend this on a course to improve and enhance my photographic endeavours. Alongside sailing, and perhaps my preoccupation with matters military, it remains one of the great enjoyments of my life. The past six years of driving round the Highlands have certainly given me many wonderful opportunities to photograph the glories of the Scottish landscape. I will let you know which course I choose – and perhaps share a couple of my efforts.

You will not be surprised

to hear me say once again how much I have enjoyed and appreciated being Chairman of the Association. It goes without saying that it has been a huge privilege and honour to hold the post. But even more, I have greatly appreciated the friendship, enthusiasm and fantastic support I have found amongst our members, our staff, not to mention our Reservists and Cadets. This has made it fun, immensely enjoyable and very fulfilling. It may seem strange to say, but I almost envy Nick as he steps into the chair.

That said, someone once told me that the Highlands region has a coastline that is more than 4,500 miles long: greater than France. It therefore seems wholly appropriate that the 'dark blue' should take its turn.

I do believe that, despite all our financial challenges, the Association is in a very good place at the moment – if not

quite General Robin Brims' vision of 'paradise'! It therefore feels like a good time to be departing. Despite now being a resident of Oxford, I will look forward to keeping an eye on how our plans evolve and to seeing Highland RFCA remaining at the forefront of change and adaptation in the future. As an ex-office holder, I will also look forward to attending future Annual Association Meetings – a good excuse to visit old haunts and renew old friendships.

I wish all the Highland staff and our fantastic membership best wishes for the future and my thanks once again for your kindness and generosity as I hand over the Chairman's baton.

With my very warmest regards as always,

*Angus*



# New minibus for Helensburgh Sea Cadets

**T**hanks to a £15k grant from the Armed Forces Covenant Fund, and the generosity of other sponsors including Highland RFCA, Babcock Marine and the Naval Base Quartz Club, Helensburgh Sea Cadets have been able to replace their ageing minibus with a nearly new one sourced in March from Arnold Clark.

Helensburgh Sea Cadets  
Commanding Officer  
Lieutenant Lesley Leckie RNR

said: "We are really grateful to all our sponsors, and particularly to the Armed Forces Covenant Fund. We rely on our minibus to get the Cadets, some of whom are as young as 10, to and from drill evenings, and to allow our Cadets to attend events and competitions further afield."

Unit Management Committee Chairman Nick Davies added: "Each Sea Cadet Unit is an independent charity, and being in the Cadets teaches young people life skills such as self-confidence, self-discipline, teamwork and respect for others. We

have to do our own fundraising, so we are delighted to receive this grant, and other sponsorship, which together has enabled us to replace our minibus."

Congratulating Helensburgh Sea Cadets on being awarded the grant, Councillor Maurice Corry, Armed Forces and Veterans Champion for Argyll & Bute said: "A key objective of The Armed Forces Covenant scheme is to encourage the integration of the Armed Forces community into local



Cllr Maurice Corry hands over the keys.

life. Helensburgh Sea Cadets is a very worthy recipient because it recruits equally from local service and civilian families, and regularly supports community events".

## Pipers and Drummers from Cadet battalions across Scotland and Northern Ireland took part in a Massed Military Bands Concert.

Twenty-four cadets, performing as part of the Army Cadet Force Pipes & Drums, took part in the 19th Rorke's Drift Concert held at the Theatr Brycheiniog in Brecon, Wales, in February.

The event saw bands from over thirteen different Cadet counties, from as far and

wide as Orkney and Surrey, taking part in an intense two days of rehearsals at Crickhowell Cadet Training Centre before taking part in the largest combined concert in the ACF Music Calendar, in front of 500 spectators.

This was the first time the Pipes & Drums had been asked to attend the concert.

Cadet Corporal Ryan Green (1st Battalion The Highlanders ACF) said: "It was an honour to have been invited to play and was an experience I enjoyed."

This year's concert saw performances of Rossini's The Barber of Seville in honour of the 200th anniversary of its premiere. There were also performances from the music of John Williams, a selection of Beatles' hits, the Bridge Over The River Kwai and also Skyfall. The evening ended with a finale of a Massed Bands performance of Highland Cathedral.

Cadet Corporal Lewis Dillon (Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders) said: "I thoroughly enjoyed working with the Military Bands and it's another great experience to add to my CV."







From left: Cadet Sergeant Robert Morrison, Honorary Group Captain Carol Vorderman RAFVR(T) and Cadet Warrant Officer Daniel Davidson.



The ATC 75 celebration cake.

## Highland Wing helps celebrate ATC 75

**O**n Sunday 7th February, Cadet Warrant Officer Daniel Davidson 423 (Elgin) Squadron, Cadet Sergeant Robert Morrison from 1731 (Isle of Lewis) Squadron, and Squadron Leader Liz McLachlan RAFVR(T) all from Highland Wing of the Air Training Corps attended the 75th Anniversary service at St Clement Danes Church, London.

The service was held to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the formation of the Air Training Corps (ATC) which was formed on 5th February 1941.

Cadets and staff from throughout the UK attended

the service in central London. Marking the event with her first official engagement as Honorary Air Commandant of the Air Cadets was HRH Catherine the Duchess of Cambridge, who took over the role of Royal Patron of the RAF Air Cadets from HRH The Duke of Edinburgh last December.

Also present along with many other dignitaries was Honorary Group Captain Carol Vorderman RAFVR(T) who is an RAF Air Cadet Ambassador.

During the day's celebrations both Cadet Warrant Officer Davidson and Cadet Sergeant Morrison met and chatted with her.

After the service, Sqn Ldr McLachlan said: "Robert and Daniel were selected to travel to London and represent all the Cadets from across Highland Wing for this

prestigious occasion. Seeing the Duchess of Cambridge and chatting to Group Captain Vorderman was a fantastic experience which they will never forget".

There are many activities organised throughout 2016 to celebrate this historic milestone in the history of the Air Cadet organisation including many that will

impact on the Highland Wing as an area, including a Squadron Sports Challenge, a series of five physical challenges to be completed at squadron level throughout June, the start of the ATC 75 Baton Relay which commences its tour of the United Kingdom from John O' Groats in July along with the Highland Wing ATC 75 Parade in Inverness in September.



From left: Squadron Leader Liz McLachlan RAFVR(T), Group Captain Jim Leggat – Regional Commandant Scotland and Northern Ireland, Cadet Sergeant Robert Morrison and Cadet Warrant Officer Daniel Davidson.



**C**adet LCpl Declan Gillies, of the Clydebank Detachment, Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders ACF took his Cadet Presentation Team briefing skills one stage further by organising a series of presentations to pupils in years S1 – S4 at Clydebank High School.

He delivered these in the middle of March along with Cadet LCpls Hannah Riding and Becky Gallagher.



# Cadets warmly welcomed to Holyrood

**F**ormer First Minister Alex Salmond warmly welcomed a group of Cadets to the Scottish Parliament building at Holyrood in January.

The Cadets represented the Army Cadet Force and the Air Training Corps.

They were from 2nd Battalion The Highlanders Army Cadet Force who are based in Boddam, Aberdeenshire. Also present were air cadets from the 2180 (Galashiels) and 870 (Dreghorn) Squadrons.

During his talk to them, the former SNP leader said his 2011 re-election campaign message focusing on the SNP's "team, record and vision" had been inspired by the military.

He showed them a display of portraits of all five First Ministers since devolution started in 1999, including himself.

Keith Brown, the Scottish Veterans' Minister, and a veteran of the 1982 Falklands Campaign, also welcomed the group to Holyrood.



Mr Salmond with the Cadets and (left) HRFCA Deputy Chief Executive Sarah Rawlings.

## Forthcoming Events

12 May	NE Area Committee Meeting
13-14 May	5 Soldiers Show, Fort George
17 May	CRFCA Board and Chairmen's Dinner (London)
18 May	CRFCA Council Meeting (London)
20-21 May	5 Soldiers Show, Stirling
21 May	Exercise Medical Stretch
27-28 May	5 Soldiers Show, Aberdeen
31 May	Jutland Commemoration (Scapa Flow, Orkney)
2 June	Gun Salute (Edinburgh)
2 June	Gun Salute (Stirling)
10 June	Gun Salute (Edinburgh)
11 June	Gun Salute (Edinburgh)
11 June	Gun Salute (Stirling)
11 June	Cadets Celebrate Queen's 90th Birthday in Angus
18 June	Stirling Military Show
25 June	Dundee Armed Forces Day
1 July	Gun Salute (Edinburgh)
16-17 July	Inverness Gala
22-24 July	Exercise Executive Stretch (Edinburgh)
4 August	HRFCA XB Meeting (Dunblane Hydro)
5-27 August	Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo
9-11 September	Highland Military Tattoo
4 October	Northern Area Meeting
6 October	North Eastern Area Meeting
13 October	Eastern Area Meeting
20 October	Southern Area Meeting
14 November	Gun Salute (Edinburgh)
14 November	Gun Salute (Stirling)



## What do YOU want to see in your *High-Light*?

Contributions are always welcome from readers

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