

Welcome to the  newsletter of



The new building arrived on site in five prefabricated sections.



One of the modules being lifted into place and (right) the old cadet hut.

NEW BANFF CADET BUILDING INSTALLED

Highland RFCA's new £400,000 cadet hut has been successfully installed in the Aberdeenshire town of Banff.

The building was lifted into place by a crane in five sections over the space of just five hours on 15 February. The sections are manufactured off site and the building should be ready for occupation in approximately one month's time. The modern, energy efficient design replaces the old Spooner huts that have passed the point of economical repair.

The second section of the building is swung into place ready to be lowered and attached to the first section. The building was designed to the specifications of the Army Cadet Force (ACF) and Highland RFCA by Jam Studios in Aberdeen and built and installed by Healthmatic Ltd. Macduff Crane Hire took care of the heavy lifting on the day. The design features a drill hall, two classrooms, an office, kitchen, store and toilets.

It forms part of Highland RFCA's £1.4 million programme of cadet building replacements and follows similar builds in Newport and Bo'ness. A further installation will take place in Mastrick, Aberdeen, this summer.

Cadets from 2nd Battalion The Highlanders ACF will use the Banff facility. Cadets and Adult Volunteers from Banff Detachment had been travelling to Portsoy, sharing resources with the Portsoy Detachment whilst the demolition of the old building and the construction of the new building was completed.

Major Stuart Eddie, Cadet Executive Officer for 2nd Battalion The Highlanders, said: "This is an important new lease of life for the Army Cadets in Banff, with a fantastic new building designed and built to the needs of the cadets and a world away from the building it replaces.

"It is in a prime site in the heart of the town. This is a boost for the community and highlights the importance placed on providing youngsters aged between 12 and 18 opportunities to learn skills, have adventure, form new friendships and have great fun. The ACF has a Diversity and Inclusion ethos and our doors, particularly the doors of this new facility, are open to all youngsters, regardless of background or ability. They just need an enthusiasm to learn, take part, have a go and enjoy."

MARCH 2022

Newsletter highlights



G.H.Q. SHOWS SPIRIT AT COVENANT SIGNING



Promotion for Daisy

Armed Forces Covenant and Veterans report





Daisy was presented with her new rank in a presentation made at the Detachment Hall on Keppoch Road by Battalion Commandant Colonel Mike MacDonald.

Promotion for volunteer Daisy

Second Lieutenant Daisy Burnside (24), from Culloden Detachment of 1st Battalion The Highlanders ACF, has been promoted to the rank of Lieutenant.

The promotion is in recognition of her work in keeping the cadets of the Detachment engaged during lockdown and upon the return to face-to-face training.

Lt Burnside became a well known face throughout the ACF during lockdown with her, and fellow volunteer Sergeant Major Instructor Stuart Taggart from the Battalion's Caithness Company, hosting weekly interviews on the Battalion's YouTube Channel.

On top of her morale boosting activities, she had also been ensuring that the cadets of the Battalion have been progressing with their normal cadet training by creating an Online Training Programme to allow Virtual Training to take place each week for the Army Cadet's numerous training levels, which has allowed cadets and the adults from across the Battalion to keep in touch with each other during this time.

ARMED FORCES COVENANT AND VETERANS REPORT

The 10th annual Armed Forces Covenant and Veterans Report was published by the UK Government in December.

This sets out the major achievements of the Armed Forces Covenant and the Strategy for our Veterans, and highlights remaining challenges and new commitments.

It covers the period 1 October 2020 to 30 September 2021, and it is the Government's annual update to Parliament on delivery against both the Covenant (as it applies to Service personnel, veterans, their families and those who are bereaved) and the Strategy for our Veterans. The report covers actions that the UK Government and the Devolved Administrations have taken during the reporting period to deliver the Covenant and the Strategy across the UK – in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

To access the report in various formats, click [HERE](#).



G.H.Q. Spirits signs Covenant

G.H.Q. Spirits has become the third gin distillery to sign the Armed Forces Covenant in the Highland RFCA-area.

The Covenant was signed at our Seathwood Headquarters in Dundee on 26 January. Appropriately, the signing took place during Ginuary – the celebration of gin during January.

Deputy Commander of 51 Brigade and Army Headquarters Scotland, Colonel Anthony Phillips, co-signed the Covenant on behalf of the Ministry of Defence, with G.H.Q. Spirits owner James McNeill signing for his company.

G.H.Q. Spirits is an award-winning distillery in the Cairngorms, founded in 2020.

James said: "It is an honour to sign the Armed Forces Covenant and give something back to our military personnel. We are delighted to be working with HRFCA and look forward to developing our relationship with the Armed Forces."

To find out more about G.H.Q. Spirits, click [HERE](#).



James McNeill (left) with Colonel Anthony Phillips after signing the Armed Forces Covenant.

