

Edinburgh, Lothians and Borders Branch

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www.edinburghrafa.org.uk

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*The latest news from the Branch,
our local RAF Air Cadet Squadrons and
603 (City of Edinburgh) Squadron RAuxAF*



The Edinburgh, Lothians and Borders branch of the RAF Association seeks to provide comradeship, help and support to past and present members of the air forces and their dependants, particularly in the area from Bathgate to Dunbar, Edinburgh to Berwick-upon-Tweed and all points in between.

Disclaimer: The opinions expressed in this Newsletter are those of the Editor or individual contributor and do not necessarily represent the views of the Royal Air Forces Association

Please also note that wherever possible any pictures or photographs used in this Newsletter are accredited to their owners. If we have used something of yours without permission, please advise and we will correct the matter in the following edition



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Branch Chair Report

Susan Kidston

Dear Members,

We had a super day out at the Scottish Vintage Bus Museum in June, we wandered around the vintage display halls and vehicle storage areas, and had our very own personal guide Martin (who is also a Branch Member), who drove us on a vintage bus ride tour around the site, thank you Martin. All this was followed by a sandwich lunch, lots of tea and coffee and lots of chat. If you have never been to the Scottish Vintage Bus Museum, we would highly recommend a visit!

As Members of our Branch, you help our Branch shape the work we can do on your behalf. With this in mind, we currently have a vacancy for our Branch Secretary position.

A Branch Secretary plays a crucial role in managing our administrative tasks, and assists ensure the smooth operation of our Branch. Could you spare a couple of hours a month to prepare Agendas and take Minutes of our Meetings and serve as one of our primary points of contacts? I do hope so, our contact information is at the bottom of this page should you be interested or have any enquiries, we'd love to hear from you!

At our next Branch meetings, we will be preparing for Remembrance Services, Remembrance events, and ensuring we lay wreaths in all areas within our Branch borders, this makes everything we do much more special.

Thank you to our Branch Committee Members who volunteer tirelessly, for their help and support, I know we are all busy, they always make time to give back to our Branch community and I express my gratitude towards all that they do for our Branch, it means so much!

In the meantime, please do not hesitate to get in touch with any one of your Committee.

Best wishes,

Susan

Wings Appeal

Sue Gillott



Border Union Show

A fantastic **£297** was raised for the Wings Appeal at the Border Union Show at Kelso in July (pictured on the front page). Thanks to staff and cadets from local Air Cadets squadrons and 603 (City of Edinburgh) Sqn RAuxAF who had stalls alongside the Branch.

Battle of Britain Day

We held a stall and street collection in Edinburgh on Saturday 20th September 2025 for Battle of Britain Day. The weather was kind in the morning so we finished mid-afternoon before the rain set in. Twenty two RAF Air Cadets and 3 staff from our local squadrons kindly helped 3 RAFA volunteers and collected **£592** from the friendly and generous people in Edinburgh.



Thank you to 142 (Trinity) Sqn, 287 (Stenhouse) Sqn, 297 (Musselburgh) Sqn, 869 (Penicuik) Sqn, 870 (Dreghorn) Sqn, 1143 (Portobello) Sqn and 2463 (Currie & Balerno) Sqn for their fantastic support and their excellent engagement with members of the public. Thank you also to trustees Bobbie and George Prentice.

As well as the collection, we received two generous donations towards this fundraiser, and our grateful thanks go to those donors. Our total for the Battle of Britain Day collection is **£1,000!**



Trail Escape

Kris MacKenzie (pictured right), an RAF Regiment gunner in 603 (City of Edinburgh) Squadron RAuxAF, completed the Trail Escape Edinburgh Marathon in September. Not just any old marathon, the route began in the city before heading up into the Pentland Hills and back again - at a total of 41.8km with 1,187m of uphill climbing! Kris raised **£665** for RAFA. Well done Kris and thank you for the support.



Join the Air Cadets in South East Scotland Wing: A Call to Former Service Members and their Families

Sqn Ldr Brooks, RAFAC

Are you a former service member or part of a military family looking to make a positive impact in your community? The Air Cadets in Scotland need you!

Our organisation aims to promote aviation interest, provide valuable training, foster a spirit of adventure, and develop citizenship among young people.

As a volunteer, you'll support activities, mentor cadets, and help with administrative tasks. No military background is required—just a commitment to guiding the next generation. We offer comprehensive training and flexible time commitments, typically around 12 hours a month.

Why We Need You: Former service members and their families bring invaluable experience, discipline, and a unique perspective that can greatly benefit our cadets. Your background in the military provides a wealth of knowledge and skills that can inspire and educate young people, helping them to develop into well-rounded individuals. Your leadership experience, problem-solving abilities, and understanding of teamwork are qualities that can significantly enhance our training programs and activities. Additionally, your stories and experiences can serve as powerful motivational tools, showing cadets the real-world applications of the skills they are learning.

Benefits for You: Volunteering with us is a rewarding way to share your skills and experiences while gaining new ones. It's a great way to stay active, meet new people, and make a meaningful contribution to your community in your spare time. Plus, the flexible commitment means you can balance volunteering with other personal and professional responsibilities.

Benefits for Young People: By volunteering, you will be directly contributing to the personal and professional growth of young people. Cadets gain valuable life skills, such as leadership, teamwork, and discipline, which are essential for their future success. Your mentorship can help them build confidence, set goals, and achieve their full potential. The positive influence of experienced volunteers like you can make a lasting impact on their lives, guiding them towards becoming responsible and capable adults.

Make a difference today & join us in shaping the future leaders of tomorrow.

Interested? Just drop a note of interest to media.sescot@rafac.mod.gov.uk or find out more at www.raf.mod.uk/aircadets.



News from our Local Air Cadet Squadrons

132 (North Berwick) Squadron

✈ In October, cadets from 132 Sqn enjoyed an informative visit to North Berwick Fire Station. Cadets were able to look around and sit in the appliance and had a little bit of excitement added as the team had a call out while they were there.



142 (Trinity) Squadron

✈ Cadets from 142 Sqn, alongside 1143 Sqn, were proud to stand shoulder to shoulder with members the Royal British Legion and attend the opening of the Garden of Remembrance in Princes Street Gardens, Edinburgh.

439 (Linlithgow) Squadron

✈ 439 Sqn recently conducted their Annual Formal Inspection. Cadets were joined by Wing Commander McAdam and Wing Sector Officer, Flt Lt Gray. The night started with Wg Cdr McAdam inspecting the cadets and having a general chat with them. The night continued with cadets doing the various projects that are currently taking place, ranging from Flight Simulator and Aircraft Modelling to First Aid and Radio. Overall it was a very successful night!

✈ In August, cadets from 439 Sqn attended the blue road marching event (pictured below). The cadets completed a 12km road march around Linlithgow on day 1 and a 15km road march across to and around Bo'ness on day 2.



869 (Penicuik) Squadron

✈ In August, Cadet Cpl Semple took to the skies and enjoyed his first ever solo glider flight. On what turned out to be a far better day than the Met Office had forecast, Cadet Cpl Semple conducted solo checks with OC 661 Sqn (both pictured right) then took flight by himself, all before lunch. Like all gliding students, Cadet Cpl Semple stands to benefit his squadron and wing by spreading the word and encouraging a new batch of Scholarship applicants. Many congratulations!!



✈ In September, cadets from 869 Sqn joined other squadrons on the South East Scotland Multi-Activity Camp. There was a wide range of activities on offer, including space, leadership and shooting. For the first time at this camp, bronze level fieldcraft was also on offer. The cadets learned about how to patrol, set up harbours, observe, and lots more.

1143 (Portobello) Squadron

✈ 1143 Sqn had the honour of hosting the Legion Scotland Area Committee who presented a cheque for £2500 to the Squadron to help in the purchase of their own Squadron gazebo. The gazebo will be used to help with the recruitment of Cadets & Staff as well as to assist at public events. During their visit, the Committee also presented cadets from the Banner & Drill Squad and Modelling Team with their medals and were given a tour of the Sqn premises.

✈ Cadets of 1143 Sqn (pictured below) supported the Poppy Scotland appeal by helping to collect donations at Cameron Toll Shopping Centre in Edinburgh.



1271 (Bathgate) Squadron

- ✈ In August, Cadet Cpl Ferguson was awarded his Bronze Duke of Edinburgh award.
- ✈ Congratulations to Cadet Warrant Officer Wilson-Hill on his promotion to the rank of CWO, the highest rank achievable by a cadet!
- ✈ In September, cadets from 1271 Sqn participated in the South East Scotland Inter Sqn Swimming Event and achieved 2nd place overall. Well done all!!

1739 (2nd Midlothian) Squadron

- ✈ 1739 Sqn teamed up with neighbouring squadrons for a fantastic visit to Marionville Fire Station (pictured below). The cadets had the opportunity to meet the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service and Police Scotland. Operational Support and Road Traffic Units kindly demonstrated their specialist equipment and shared valuable insights into their work keeping the local communities safe. Meanwhile, Blue Watch provided an in-depth tour of their appliance, water rescue kit, and the wide range of lifesaving operational equipment they use every day. An engaging and memorable night for all!

Image credit: 1739 Sqn Facebook



1756 (Broxburn) Squadron

✈ In August, cadets from 1756 Sqn attended a Battlefield Tour of France & Belgium alongside cadets from across the Scotland & Northern Ireland region. The tour was deeply moving and honoured those who served in the First World War. Cadets explored historic cemeteries, memorials, and battlefield sites, learning about the soldiers' experiences, the realities of trench warfare, and the decisions that shaped history. From personal stories of bravery to the strategic challenges of war, the tour offered powerful insights into the human cost of conflict. Highlights included:

- Visiting military museums and preserved trench systems
- Learning about key battles and individual soldiers' stories
- Reflecting at Commonwealth cemeteries and memorials
- Taking part in the poignant Last Post Ceremony at the Menin Gate in Ypres

This experience not only deepened cadets' understanding of WWI history, but also strengthened their appreciation for the values of service, sacrifice, and remembrance.

Image credit: 1756 Sqn Facebook





✈ Cadets from 1756 Sqn enjoyed a trip to the Ayr International Festival of Flight in September. The cadets and staff had a blast taking photos of the fast jets and getting to see different types of aircraft from all over the world.

2535 (Livingston) Squadron

✈ In October, Cadet Flt Sgt Martin (pictured right) was appointed Cadet Warrant Officer following a successful board interview. CWO is the highest rank you can achieve as a cadet, and it is excellent recognition of years of hard work, dedication and passion from CWO Martin.



News from Across the Royal Air Force

From RAF News / BFBS Forces News

- ✈ In August, Flying Officer Sarah Bonar represented Scotland in her second rugby world cup. She first played for the Scotland team in 2016.
- ✈ 602 (City of Glasgow) Squadron RAuxAF gathered with veterans in the city's cathedral in September to commemorate the Battle of Britain and the founding of the squadron. The event celebrated the squadron's centenary.
- ✈ A set of cufflinks presented to the RAF pilot who flew the Duke of Windsor's body back to the UK in 1972 sold at auction for £1,700 - significantly more than the estimated £400. The gold cufflinks were given to Squadron Leader Denis Lowery by the late Queen.
- ✈ A Battle of Britain Memorial Flight pilot, Squadron Leader Ben Polwin, made history this year by winning the 2025 King's Cup Air Race with his wife, a veteran of the Royal Canadian Air Force. With a one second race win resulting in winning the 2025 British Air Racing Championship, he has become the first service member since 1988 to win the trophy.
- ✈ A former RAF weapons instructor has completed every single Tough Mudder obstacle course event held in the UK this year, raising almost £3,000 for a forces charity.
- ✈ A replica spitfire and statue of Air Chief Marshal Lord Dowding, the Commander in Chief of Fighter Command during the Battle of Britain, has been unveiled in Moffat. The replica and statue are located in front of Dowding House, now a home for RAF veterans run by the RAF Association.
- ✈ In October, the Inter Services Cycling Criterium Open Championships saw a full RAF podium for the first time as well as the RAF team winning the team champion title at Portsmouth. Success on two wheels also extended to the downhill mountain biking discipline, where the RAF achieved both the top podium place and team title in the Inter Services competition held at Innerleithen, Scottish Borders.

New ID Card for Veterans

From BFBS Forces News

The new veteran ID card provides a memento of service and maintains a tangible link to the Armed Forces, while also allowing veterans to easily verify their service to the NHS, their local authority and charities, enabling them to access support and services where needed.

Thousands of Armed Forces veterans can apply for an ID card either online by visiting the GOV.UK website at www.gov.uk/veteran-card or by making a paper-based application.

Veterans will be able to use their ID card to apply for a Defence Discount Service card and Veterans Railcard, and could be used as a form of voter identification in forthcoming elections.

Anyone interested in advice or details regarding the veteran ID card should contact Veterans UK, which is a 24-hour service that directs ex-forces personnel to a range of support available to them including housing, financial advice and career guidance.



Puzzle

Can you find the six parts of an aeroplane hidden in the sentences below?
For example, the word 'wing' is hidden in the sentence:

'I want to **win** gold medals'

One word is hidden in each of the following sentences. See how many you can find!

1. I don't know how he electrocuted himself.
2. There's no service flying out to Toronto today.
3. We dropped all the way down and got a great view of the Grand Canyon.
4. Do you have a pin in your lapel? Eva tore a button off my coat and I need to disguise it.
5. Everybody ok? Everyone sitting comfortably?
6. Make sure the catering staff use lager instead of ale in the Officer's Mess.

Answers on the last page.



Remembrance Poem

By John Roy Walsh

Remember us, we would ask you,
Through the dawn and the break of day,
And recall us then with your quiet prayers,
In a lofty sun's first rays.

Know that we ensured your freedom,
But grieve not at the cost,
For better far pay the final price.

Than suffer your future lost.

Then ever an airman's honour,
But never an airman's shame,
For we gave all, for freedom's call,
And died in our country's name.

Remember us, we would ask you,
Through sunset's last red glow,
Then salute us all, through a bugle's call,
For the dawns we'll never know.



*Puzzle answers: 1. Wheel / 2. Nose / 3. Pedal
4. Elevator / 5. Yoke / 6. Fuselage*

Dates for your Diary

Thurs 27th Nov	Branch Meeting @ 1900hrs on Zoom
December	No Branch Meeting
Thurs 29th Jan	Branch Meeting @ 1900hrs on Zoom

