



EAST MIDLANDS UPDATE



Work begins in Dronfield

Young people and adult volunteers in Dronfield can look forward to using a new Cadet centre in the town, thanks to a new building project being led by East Midlands RFCA.

Works commenced on site in January, to build a new home for the Air Training Corps (ATC).

The centre, that will cost £400,000 to construct, is based on Hartington Road and will be built on the same site as the Cadets' former training hut.

Martin Capewell, Head of Estates at East Midlands RFCA, said: "When complete the centre can be used by up to 60 Cadets and adult volunteers at one time.

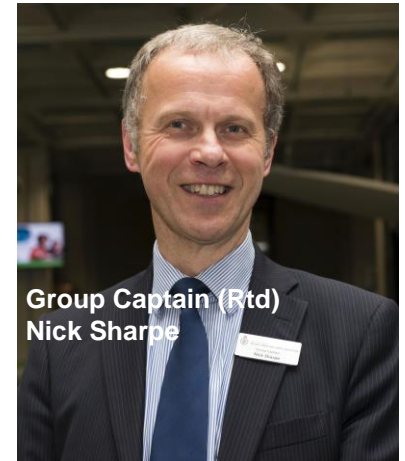
"1890 (Dronfield) Squadron ATC's former training hut has now been demolished and work is progressing for a summer 2015 finish."



**Former training hut in
Dronfield**

Chief Executive's note:

It is always a pleasure to see people receiving recognition for their achievements and this year's New Year's Honours list contained the names of two people who have contributed much to the Army Cadet Force and to the Army Reserve: Colonel Trevor Richmond and Warrant Officer Mick Hancock. Both have given many years of service to their country and continue to do so; Trevor Richmond has also been an active member of the RFCA, chairing the Lincolnshire Committee for some time and now a member of our Finance Committee, ensuring our funding is spent in an appropriate manner.



**Group Captain (Rtd)
Nick Sharpe**

Cadets have been very much at the forefront in the last few months as we begin to use the wonderful new training facility at Yardley Chase and as we continue a programme to replace dilapidated Cadet facilities across the region. Funding remains tight and we have to work hard to justify expenditure on new facilities. Nonetheless, by the time you read this newsletter a new building, to be shared between the ACF and the ATC, will be open at West Bridgford and the development of a new building at Dronfield will have begun. Although the big projects invariably attract the greatest attention, we continue to invest in improvements to facilities across the East Midlands. These improvements range from new kitchens to new whiteboards in a classroom. While they may not attract the same publicity as the larger projects, this programme of continual improvement is critical to ensuring that Cadets get the experience they deserve.

New Joint Cadet Centre opens in West Bridgford

Young people and adult volunteers in West Bridgford have welcomed the completion of a new Joint Cadet Centre.

The centre, based on Wilford Lane, has been constructed on an adjacent site to the former Cadet hut and can now be used by up to 80 young people and adult volunteers from the Army Cadet Force (ACF) and Air Training Corps (ATC) at any one time.

East Midlands Reserve Forces and Cadets Association (RFCA) has project managed the construction of the building.

Continued on page 2



Martin Capewell, Head of Estates at East Midlands RFCA, said: "The centre includes a new training hall, fully interactive lecture rooms and plenty of room to store essential training equipment.

"We are delighted the new facility is now ready for the Cadets to use. There have been a few delays along the way, but I know now the centre is ready for use the Cadets will begin to enjoy the new facilities straight away."

Colonel Alan Burt, Commandant of Nottinghamshire ACF, said: "This new joint Cadet training facility will give both the Army Cadet Force and Air Training Corps an opportunity to train in similar activities such as First Aid, drill, navigation as well as training towards achieving a Duke of Edinburgh Award and taking part in community events.

"This marks the beginning of a new era for West Bridgford Detachment and we would like to thank the MOD and RFCA for such an excellent facility."

Wing Commander Nigel Dickinson, Officer Commanding South and East Midlands Wing, said: "Our sincere thanks to everyone involved in this project. We now have a superb building, which is fit for purpose, and provides the local squadron with a fantastic opportunity to grow and develop its presence in the locality."

The centre is now being used by the West Bridgford Detachment of Nottinghamshire ACF and 209 (West Bridgford) Squadron ATC, who moved in to the facility in February this year.

To find out more about joining the ACF visit www.armycadets.com

To learn more about joining the ATC visit www.raf.mod.uk/aircadets/



East Midlands employers invited to Royal Garden Party



Employers at previous Royal Garden Party

Three employers from Chesterfield, Derby and Matlock have been invited to attend a Royal Garden Party this May, after demonstrating their support for the Reserve Forces.

Representatives from Franke Sissons in Chesterfield, Derby Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and Dales Housing in Matlock are all set to travel to Buckingham Palace to attend the prestigious event.

Each of the representatives selected to attend the event have demonstrated personal support for their Reservist employees, as well as the organisations they work for all recently receiving a Silver Award from the Ministry of Defence (MOD) for supporting Defence Personnel as a whole.

John Wilson, East Midlands Regional SaBRE Director, explained: "Reservists make a vital contribution to our national defence capabilities. This contribution would not be possible without the support and understanding of employers."



Honouring volunteers in the region

One Army Reservist and one adult volunteer from the Army Cadet Force (ACF) were awarded in Her Majesty the Queen's New Year's Honours List.

Mick Hancock, who previously served with 4 Mercian in Mansfield, received a Queen's Volunteer Reserve Medal (QVRM) for his outstanding service with the Army Reserve.

"A limited number of QVRM awards are presented each year so I'm very proud and appreciative of my nomination and now receiving the honour." Explained Mick.



Mick Hancock

Elsewhere in the region, Colonel Trevor Richmond, who will have served 30 years in the ACF this year, was awarded an MBE for his outstanding contribution to the youth organisation in Lincolnshire.

Reflecting on receiving his award, Trevor Richmond said: "I have been honoured for something I have enjoyed doing for many years. I have met and worked with many excellent Cadet Force adult volunteers along the way."

Top Cadet rewarded

A Cadet from Derbyshire has been awarded for her outstanding achievements at her Army Cadet Force (ACF) detachment in Long Eaton.



Caitlin Scotting

Cadet Colour Sergeant Caitlin Scotting, aged 16, was presented with an award by the local Royal British Legion (RBL) after around 30 of her fellow Cadets voted for an individual from the detachment, who had gone above and beyond their Cadet role, to win the award.

Caitlin joined Derbyshire ACF in 2010 after being encouraged by her brother, who was already learning new skills and taking part in a variety of activities at the detachment.

Reflecting on receiving the honour, Caitlin said: "I'm really happy to get the award as it demonstrates that my hard work has been recognised at Cadets and that the support I have provided to others has been appreciated."

"Being a senior Cadet means that other younger Cadets look up to you, so I think it is important to set a good example. I was recently promoted to become a Cadet Colour Sergeant which I'm really proud of, so getting this award too was a real surprise."

Meetings... Conferences... Training... Parties...

Venues for hire

Alternative **VENUES** / East Midlands

www.alternativevenues.org



Venues with a difference

T: 0800 169 0880

E: em-offceav@rfca.org.uk

