

THE 361 NEWSLETTER



Issue: 02 361 (Gateshead) Squadron Newsletter

website: www.361-atc.com

A Message From The CO

"Welcome to the latest edition of the 361 newsletter containing details of the many achievements made by squadron members over the past few months. These include BTEC qualifications, sporting successes, work in the local community and much, much more. Let's all aim high and help make 2008 an even better year for 361 squadron!"

- Flt Lt George Reywer RAFVR(T)



361 Cross Country Team with Awards

Cross-Country Success

Cadets from 361 Squadron recently took part in the Durham/Northumberland Wing Cross-Country Competition at the Rising Sun Country Park at Benton.

A number of cadets won medals for their performances, and the photograph shows the squadron team after the event with their medals and awards, including Cadet Lowres who won a silver medal for second place in his age group. This contributed to the team winning the trophy for his age group. Cadet Howell and Sergeant Hutchinson both won gold medals for first place in their respective age groups.

All three medal winners have been selected to represent the Wing at the next level of the competition.

Colts Canter 2007

Cdt Sgt Jamie Hutchinson and Corporal Sam Dixon from 361 squadron were recently selected as members of the Durham & Northumberland Wing team in the 2007 Colts Canter competition.

This competition is organised by the Army Cadet Force and is a test of a range of Military Skills including First Aid, Leadership Skills, Long

Distance Marching, Navigation and Target Shooting. It is open to all the cadet forces including Army, Sea and Air Cadets.

The Durham/Northumberland Wing team were presented with the award as the best non Army Cadet team in the competition.

BTEC Awards

Four cadets from the squadron recently qualified for their BTEC Certificate in Aviation Studies.

This Certificate is equivalent to 2 GCSE passes at grades A-C and is a valuable addition to the educational achievements of any young person as it distinguishes them as having gained an award for work done outside of school/college.

Every cadet can qualify for this award though the normal training they undergo as part of the Air Cadet syllabus.

The four cadets who gained award are Flight Sergeant Wallace, Sergeants Hutchinson and Robson, and Corporal Morrison. Many congratulations to them!

We Will Remember Them

The Cadets and Staff of 361 Squadron joined many other Gateshead organisations and veterans to remember those who have fought and died for us since the First World War.

Gateshead Squadron proudly took its place in the annual Parade, which made its way out of the TA Centre to a service held at the Cenotaph, where a Wreath from the unit was laid by Cadet Mark Wilson alongside those from all across the town, before marching back.

It was a very cold day, and everyone involved did themselves proud at the standards and attitudes they showed.



Table Tennis Success

361's valiant run of form tasted the bitterness of defeat in the Wing's Inter-Squadron Table Tennis Competition.

After blistering victories against 2214 (Usworth), 607 (Wearmouth) and 1509 (Blaydon) Squadrons, the team suffered a slight 10-7 loss against the reigning champions, 324 (South Shields) Squadron.

The team, consisting of Sergeant Hutchinson, Corporal Sam Dixon, Cadets Dunlop, Lawrence and McTeer, and Captain Corporal Thompson, still have a slight chance of qualifying for the next round. It is out of their hands, but a victory against their final opponents, 111 (Sunderland) Squadron, is a must. Good Luck Team!

361 Sports Stars

Three cadets from 361 represented the Wing at Cross Country in late November, producing some fantastic results.

Cadet Monique Howell has only been with the Squadron a short while but has already shown her running prowess with a collection of awards.

Having won her race at the Inter-Wing Championships, Cadet Howell will now go on to face the best the Corps has to offer by representing North Region in January.

This adds to the historic Corps Blue Cadet Howell achieved by representing the Air Cadets nationally at athletics in the summer,

which made her the first cadet from Gateshead to make it to the top level for several years.

Sergeant Jamie Hutchinson and Cadet Chris Lowres also put in valiant performances, with the Sergeant helping his team win their age category and Cadet Lowres adding yet another Wing Blue to his growing collection.

Packing a Punch

Cadets and Staff from 361 joined with those from 1313 (Whickham) Squadron at Sainsbury's on the Team Valley for a fundraising Bag Pack.

The event was part of a national campaign devised by the Commandant Air Cadets, Air Commodore Gordon Moulds, to raise money for the RAF Benevolent Fund and public awareness of the Air Cadets.

The Squadron raised nearly £600 for the fund, which provides support to all members of the RAF family in need, contributing to a combined effort of just short of £1000. Well done to everyone involved, and keep up the good work!

Old Folks Christmas

Four cadets from 361 recently helped run a Christmas Fair for the residents of Armstrong House, a large local care home.

Under the direction of CI Amy Pooley and Committee Member Mrs Ada Pooley, Corporal Dixon and Cadets Dunlop, Devlin and Bennett continued the growth of our Citizenship programme by helping to run stalls and raffles as well as selling cakes and making drinks.

The event was hugely enjoyable and very successful, and many thanks go out to those who gave up their time to get involved!

Exam Success

Bonfire night saw a group of 361 cadets travel to 1313 (Whickham) Squadron for their classification exams.

Passing these exams means a cadet moves up to the next level on the classification scale.

The Squadron has an excellent exam record, and that was maintained yet again with nearly all

entrants passing first time around! Well done to those that have passed, and good luck to those preparing to take theirs soon.

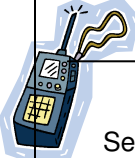
Market Stall Success

361 Squadron's Civilian Committee completed its first of what is hoped to be many fundraisers for the unit.

After a massively successful drive for items donated by the cadets, they went on to run a stall at Chester-le-Street Market, racking up nearly £100 for the Squadron Funds.

Remember, the Committee is here for the cadets, and they need your help to help you.

We are always looking for new people to get involved, so don't hesitate to get in touch if you're interested!



Communicating Well

Several members of the Squadron are on cloud nine after qualifying for prestigious Radio and Communications Qualifications. Cadet Warrant Officer Robson, Sergeant Rudge, Corporal Dixon

This specialist award is an extremely rare one, and the five are all pleased that their hard work has paid off.

As well as that, Cadets Bennett and Devlin are well on their way behind them. Despite having less than a year's service between them, the pair have already been awarded their Full Operators Certificates, meaning they can operate unsupervised and even teach other cadets. Well done to all!



Top Shots

A team of cadets, led by Sqn Staff, Warrant Officer Ray Walker and Sergeant J-P Fidrmuc, attained a fantastic 4th place at this year's Inter-Squadron Skill at Arms Competition.

The team, Cadets Sergeant Hutchinson, Corporals Dixon & Thompson, and Cadet Dunlop, had to perform a Weapons Handling Test and then complete a series of shoots at 25 metres in order to receive their accolade, and proving that the standard of shooting on the Squadron has shot through the roof!

Public Services BTEC

Sergeant Hutchinson has become the first 361 Cadet to be awarded a BTEC in Public Services, equivalent to 4 GCSEs.

Earning a Distinction for his work, adding 4 A*s to his list of qualifications, Sgt Hutchinson was presented his award by the Lord Lieutenant for Tyne and Wear. Congratulations to him, and keep up the hard work – we have more awards coming up!

Annual Awards Evening

Held on the Final Parade of 2007, many cadets were presented with their badges and certificates for passing their classification exams. Also awarded were the following distinctions:

Best Sports Cadet	- Cdt Monique Howell
Best Recruit	- Cdt Mark Devlin
CO's Commendation	- Cdt Mark Wilson
Best NCO	- Sgt Jamie Hutchinson
Best Cadet (Staff)	- Cdt Aidan Dunlop
Best Cadet (Points)	- Cpl Liam Thompson

A Closing Message...

2007 has been a very successful year for 361 Squadron. We've achieved many awards, attended many events and expanded all of our horizons.

We hope to further that expansion, continuing to thrive and build on the great work done so far – not least of all on the Duke of Edinburgh's Award – and provide better training and more activities for all of our cadets and staff.

So thank you for a great 2007 – now let's build a memorable 2008!

Forthcoming Events in 2008

Sqn Open Night – 28 Feb
DOE Training – March Onwards
Drill Competition - May

Camps:

RAF Marham 5-12 Jul
AT Windermere 26 Jul
RAF Cranwell 16-23 Aug
RAF Kinloss 25 Oct
Warcop 26 Oct

Colts Canter
Selection & Training - Sep

New Sector orientated events will commence soon, including Camps.