



Shropshire Army Cadet Force Trust

Newsletter July 2025
Issue No. 2

www.sacft.co.uk
Registered Charity Number: 1206754

A word of welcome from Commandant of the Shropshire Army Cadet Force - John Mytton

Welcome to this edition of the SACFF newsletter, where they proudly showcase the diverse activities and achievements of our cadets.

As Commandant of the Shropshire Army Cadet Force (ACF)—one of the oldest and, I firmly believe, finest voluntary youth organisations in the UK—I'm incredibly proud of the opportunities we provide to young people from all walks of life.

More than 10% of our cadets are eligible for free school meals, and thanks to the outstanding support of the Trust, these young people aren't left behind. The Trust makes it possible for them to attend weekend training and our annual camp, regardless of financial circumstances.

In addition to this vital support, the Trust also helps fund equipment and experiences that enrich our cadets' training and development. On behalf of everyone in Shropshire ACF, I extend my sincere thanks to the trustees and to all of you who support their work. Your generosity is helping to change lives—and we're deeply grateful



B Company recruit seven new adult volunteers

B Company went above and beyond to recruit seven new Adult Volunteers, who attended a County Familiarisation Day earlier this year. The event introduced them to life in Shropshire ACF and helped them decide if they wanted to take the next step in joining our team.

By the end of the day, the County and B Company gained six enthusiastic Potential Instructors and one dedicated Non-Uniformed Volunteer. They are pictured here alongside Colonel John Mytton, Commandant; Lt Colonel Nigel Sarling, Deputy Commandant; and Adult Under Officer Jim Franklyn.



First Aid at Work Training Completed!

Our Trust aims to support not just the Cadets themselves but the adult volunteers.

We support the Shropshire Army Cadet Force with:

- Financial aid
- Skills Development
- Personal Growth

“Between the 17th and 19th of January, Shropshire Army Cadet Force CFAVs successfully completed their First Aid at Work (FAAW) qualifications and requalification's. This essential training ensures we continue to maintain our Safe Persons standards, equipping them with the knowledge and skills needed to respond effectively in emergencies. Well done to everyone who took part.

Bligny Band and Bugles Training Day

Our Trust supports the Bligny Band and Bugles.

Over the last 18 months it has been great to see the group go from strength to strength.

A recent training session focused on enhancing the cadets' musical proficiency, with assessments led by brigade music instructors.

Cadets specializing in music, follow a rigorous syllabus that develops their ability to read and interpret musical notation mastering a new language. While their training focuses on musical proficiency, it also fosters valuable cognitive and analytical skills.

We commend all cadets for their dedication and hard work.

The Bligny Band and Bugles were honoured with a generous donation of £250 from the Combined Services Lodge of the Masons during a special presentation this evening.

In recognition of the contribution, the band presented the Lodge with a county plaque as a token of appreciation. The event was marked by a powerful and impressive performance from the Band and Bugles, showcasing their musical talent and discipline.

On the 22nd March the Band and Bugles gave a fantastic performance at the Royal British Legion (RBL) fundraiser, energising the crowd and getting everyone clapping and cheering.

A great evening was had by all with Col John Mytton Comdt, Shropshire Army Cadet Force and Ian Williams, County Chair of RBL, signed the affiliation deed.



Trust donates Blazepod equipment to Shropshire Army Cadet Force

Our Trust was founded to raise money to help fund a diverse annual programme of vocational and citizenship training and social activities for Shropshire Army Cadets that the Ministry of Defence does not fund.

Grant requests are considered by our Trustees and one such recent request was for Blazepod equipment.

The request was approved and our Trustee Lieutenant Colonel Samantha Brettell TD, VR, DL presented the equipment.

Samantha Brettell TD, VR, DL visited Market Drayton Platoon for their Annual Inspection, where she presented a full set of “Blazepod” equipment to Colour Serjeant Good, the Platoon Commander, and the cadets of the platoon.

The equipment, designed to support the “Keeping Active” element of the Army Cadet Force syllabus, was generously funded and donated by the Shropshire Army Cadet Force Trust. Lt Col Brettell, who is also a Trustee of the Trust, made the presentation as part of her inspection visit, highlighting the continued investment in the wellbeing and development of cadets in the county.



Oswestry VE Day 80th Celebrations

On the 10th May 2025, Oswestry Detachment proudly supported the Royal British Legion in commemorating the 80th anniversary of Victory in Europe (VE) Day. The event began with a parade from Cross Street, retracing the historic route taken 80 years ago.

Following the parade, a short but poignant service of remembrance was held.

Afterwards, everyone gathered in Cae Glass Park, where the VE Day celebrations commenced in full spirit, honouring the sacrifices of the past and celebrating the enduring legacy of peace.”



A Night of Honour, Service, and Inspiration: Lord-Lieutenant Cadet Awards Ceremony

Each year, the Lord-Lieutenant of Shropshire is allocated Lord-Lieutenant cadets to support her at official engagements.

The Lord-Lieutenant’s cadet nominations reward remarkable dedication in young people who have shown outstanding commitment and achievements in their cadet training.

A representative is chosen from the Sea Cadets, the Army Cadet Force, the Air Training Corps, and the Combined Cadet Force to accompany the Lord-Lieutenant on civic and military visits.

The Trust was honoured to be part of the Lord-Lieutenant Cadet Ceremony 2025.

Such a wonderful night of welcomes, au revours and celebration of service.

Shropshire Army Cadet Force had the great honour of hosting this year's Lord-Lieutenant Cadet Award Ceremony at the historic Shrewsbury Museum and Art Gallery. Surrounded by family, friends, and distinguished guests, the event stood as a shining tribute to dedication, leadership, and service among Shropshire's young cadets and adult volunteers.

The Lord-Lieutenant of Shropshire, His Majesty's representative in the county, personally presented awards to the outgoing Lord-Lieutenant's Cadets in recognition of their exceptional year of service. Each cadet had the opportunity to reflect on their journey, speaking from the heart about the honour, personal growth, and life-changing experiences their role had brought them.

We thank and commend the following outgoing cadets for their exemplary commitment:

- SCC – Cadet Leading Hand Markus FILIMONOV
- CCF – Cadet Warrant Officer Millicent PLUMB
- ACF – Cadet Company Sergeant Major Izzy McAREE
- RAF AC – Cadet Warrant Officer Sophia WILLIAMS

The ceremony then turned to welcome the newly appointed Lord-Lieutenant's Cadets, each introduced through powerful and insightful citations read by senior officers from their respective cadet organisations. The Lord-Lieutenant warmly welcomed:

- SCC – Cadet Leading Hand Sean HEIGHWAY
- CCF – Serjeant James WATTS
- ACF – Cadet Staff Sergeant Willow CHATTINGTON-LOWE
- RAF AC – Cadet Warrant Officer Tabitha FISH

We extend our deepest thanks to the Lord-Lieutenant for her ongoing guidance, encouragement, and for making the evening truly unforgettable.



Lord-Lieutenant Cadet 1st engagement at Lord-Lieutenant Garden Party

Newly appointed Lord-Lieutenant cadet, Cadet Staff Sergeant Willow Chattington-Lowe completed her first official duty by supporting Mrs. Anna Turner at the Lord-Lieutenant's Garden Party.

Over 500 invited guests attended the event, whose theme was to thank the amazing volunteers of Shropshire.

Willow escorted the Lord-Lieutenant and Vice Lord-Lieutenant throughout the event, met with some wonderful volunteers, and met Garrison Sergeant Major Andrew John Stokes OBE MVO DL.



Cadet Events

Inter Services Cadet Clay Competition

In June, cadet teams from across Shropshire gathered to take part in the Inter Services Cadet Clay Competition.

Participants included one team from TS Wrekin (Sea Cadet Corps), two teams representing the Shropshire Army Cadet Force, and three teams from the Shropshire-based Royal Air Force Air Cadets.

Each competitor fired 50 cartridges across six Sporting Stands, followed by a "Down the Line" event and concluding with a Flush competition.

Prizes were presented by senior officers from each of the three services.

It was a fantastic day marked by great sportsmanship and some outstanding shooting performances.



B Company 1* Navigation and Expedition Assessment

Cadets from B Company successfully completed their 1* Navigation and Expedition Assessment. The day began with a thorough kit check and route planning before the cadets set off on a day expedition, carrying all the equipment needed to remain fully self-sufficient.

Despite the intense heat, regular breaks kept spirits high, and the cadets demonstrated excellent navigation skills throughout the route.

Later, they put their campcraft skills into practice, pitching and packing away tents, preparing their own evening meals, and ensuring all cooking equipment was properly cleaned.

All cadets who took part passed the assessment, and to cap off the achievement, B Company Commander, Maj Davison, proudly presented four cadets with their 1* badge and certificate.



Shropshire ACF Clay Teams Shine at National Inter-Service Cadet Clay Championships

Shropshire ACF clay shooting teams returned with an impressive haul of medals from the National Inter-Service Cadet Clay Championships, held at Cambridge Gun Club on 5–6 April 2025.

Official results are still pending from the event organisers, but it's already clear that Shropshire made a strong showing. Out of the 20 competing teams, which included contingents from the CCF, RAFAC, Sea Cadets, and ACF, seven hailed from Shropshire. This included two teams from Shropshire ACF, one from Telford Sea Cadets, and four from RAFAC, all of whom train at Buller Gun Club.

A standout moment came with LCpl Paisley Latham (Copthorne) being highlighted as a potential future candidate for the British Shooting Talent Pathway, an exciting prospect for both the cadet and the county.



National Navigation Training

Over the weekend of 5th–6th April, four CFAVs from Shropshire attended the National Navigation Training Weekend at Cwrt y Gollen Training Centre.

They took part in navigation CPD (up to Nav 2*) and were trained in the roles, responsibilities, and essential navigation and campcraft skills required to help supervise expeditions in normal country terrain.

This training will enhance their ability to deliver high-quality instruction and support to cadets undertaking their ACS training.

Thank you for your dedication to our Cadets.



Basic and 1-Star Fieldcraft Weekend

Over the weekend of March 28th–30th, Shropshire ACF's Basic and One-Star Cadets gathered at Nesscliff Training Camp for an immersive Fieldcraft experience, where they were taught and assessed on essential skills. Many cadets successfully passed, marking an important step in their progression.

Fieldcraft is one of the most exciting aspects of being in the Army Cadets. From mastering camouflage techniques to leading a section through high-pressure night patrols, it equips cadets with the confidence and skills needed to navigate challenging environments. This hands-on training fosters resilience, adaptability, and leadership, key qualities that extend beyond the cadet experience.



Shropshire Army Cadet Force Takes on the Brigade

From the 28th to the 30th March, Shropshire ACF sent three company teams, comprising of 28 determined cadets, into battle at the annual brigade Mill Skills competition. Held at Swynnerton Training Area, this gruelling event pushed the best ACF and CCF teams from across the brigade to their limits in a series of high-intensity challenges. With the support of nine dedicated CFAVs, the cadets braced themselves for a relentless weekend of competition, resilience, and teamwork.

Supporting Shropshire Army Cadets

We continue to welcome Friends, Sponsors, and patrons to our support programmes.

We value the support we are given and how it enables us to facilitate the Army Cadets of Shropshire activities.

If you would like to know more or join us in supporting the SCAF – you can visit:

<https://sacft.co.uk/about-us/sponsorship/>

or make a donation via JustGiving: <https://www.justgiving.com/shropshirearmycadetforcetrust>

Get Involved with Us

As a Shropshire Army Cadet Force Trust volunteer, you can significantly impact the Army Cadet journey from day one. As an instructor, mentor or supporter across many disciplines, you can share existing skills and knowledge as part of the youth training programmes and activities. As a proactive volunteer, you will gain valuable experience in youth leadership, training skills and satisfaction from your contribution.

Get in touch: <https://sacft.co.uk/contact-us/>

Where is my nearest Detachment in Shropshire?

Detachment	Address			
ABRAHAM DARBY	Abraham Darby Academy	Ironbridge Rd, Madeley	TELFORD	TF7 5HX
BAND & BUGLES	Army Reserve Centre	Copthorne Barracks	SHREWSBURY	SY3 8LZ
BISHOPS CASTLE	Cadet Centre	Station Rd	BISHOPS CASTLE	SY9 5DD
BRIDGNORTH	Cadet Centre	Oldbury Wells School	BRIDGNORTH	WV16 5JD
BROSELEY	Cadet Centre	Legges Hill	BROSELEY	TF12 5RD
CHURCH STRETTON	Unit 3	The Mynd Industrial Estate	CHURCH STRETTON	SY6 6EA
COPTHORNE	Army Reserve Centre	Copthorne Barracks	SHREWSBURY	SY3 8LZ
DAWLEY BANK	Army Reserve Centre	Cavan Drive	DAWLEY BANK	TF4 2BQ
DONNINGTON	Army Reserve Centre	Trench	TELFORD	TF2 7DX
ELLESMERE	Cadet Centre	Birch Rd	ELLESMERE	SY12 9AA
HARLESCOTT	Sundorne School & Sports College	Corndon Crescent	SHREWSBURY	SY1 4LL
LUDLOW	Cadet Centre	Portcullis Lane	LUDLOW	SY8 1PZ
MADELEY	Cadet Centre	Court St	MADELEY	TF7 5EG
MARKET DRAYTON	Cadet Centre, Hedley Way	Bruntingsdale Park, Tern Hill Way	MARKET DRAYTON	TF9 2EY
NEWPORT	Cadet Centre	Audley Ave	NEWPORT	TF10 7DS
OSWESTRY	Cadet Centre	Willow St	OSWESTRY	SY11 1AN
PONTESBURY	Cadet Centre	Shrewsbury Rd	PONTESBURY	SY5 0TG
SHIFNAL	Cadet Centre, Idsall School	Coppice Green Lane	SHIFNAL	TF11 8PD
SHREWSBURY	Army Reserve Centre	Copthorne Barracks	SHREWSBURY	SY3 8LZ
WELLINGTON	Cadet Centre	King St	WELLINGTON	TF1 1PA
WEM	Cadet Centre, Adams College	Noble St	WEM	SY4 5DT
WHITCHURCH	Cadet Centre	Mill St	WHITCHURCH	SY13 1SE

If you, like us, want to help shape futures for tomorrow's leaders,
you can get in touch with us:

[sacft.co.uk/contact-us](https://www.sacft.co.uk/contact-us)



www.sacft.co.uk

Registered Charity Number: 1206754