



Shropshire Army Cadet Force Trust

Newsletter December 2025
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www.sacft.co.uk
Registered Charity Number: 1206754

Welcome from Our Chairman

- Dr Graham Wynn OBE

“As we file our first Charity Commission Annual return I can reflect on how far we have come: -

In our first full year we have raised over £24,000.

We have the following Corporate and private members.

CORPORATE PATRONS

- *Traffix Ltd*
- *Hodnet Hall*
- *Wynn Foundation*

CORPORATE FRIENDS

- *Green Cleen (UK) Ltd*
- *Harding & Houlst*
- *NFU Mutual Shrewsbury*

- *Rowton Castle Country Club*
- *Horton Farm*
- *RBSL*
- *Shropshire Chamber of Commerce*
- *Horton Lodge Ltd*
- *R1 Construction Ltd*
- *Mauviteft Consulting Ltd*
- *Martin & Jones Marketing*
- *Aaron & Partners*

CORPORATE SPONSORS

- *GenRen Ltd*
- *Viessmann Ltd*

INDIVIDUAL FRIENDS

- *Hugh Strickland*

We have held our official launch and drinks reception at RAF Shawbury Officers Mess.

We held our first Trust Dinner at Venning Barracks, Donnington, Telford.

We have supported the Cadets in Shropshire by providing funding for:

Blaze Pod Equipment for Physical training

Grant towards Adventurous Training at Annual Camp

Grant towards Shot Gun servicing.

Grant towards instrument repair for the Bligny Band and Bugles

Grant to buy new Chest Webbing and Day sacks.

Grant to purchase of wooden replica rifles.

I would take this opportunity to thank the Trustees for their support and everyone that have worked hard to ensure our success.



A Warm Welcome to the new Shropshire Army Cadet Force County Commandant!

Our Trust would like to extend a very warm welcome to the new County Commandant for Shropshire Army Cadet Force – we look forward to working with you.

Colonel Mike Neville bio:

“After leaving school, I embarked on a career in the Regular Army, serving with the Royal Military Police from 1983 to 1988. Following my military service, I joined the Metropolitan Police, where I progressed to the rank of Detective Chief Inspector at New Scotland Yard. My work specialised in using CCTV and imagery to identify and apprehend criminals, leading to the pioneering creation of the world’s first Human Super Recogniser Unit. Today, I continue to support police forces internationally in this field and am a regular television commentator on policing and crime matters.

My association with the Army Cadet Force (ACF) began as a cadet in Bolton, Greater Manchester, where I subsequently served briefly as an instructor before relocating to London. In South East London, I managed cadet units in inner-city communities such as Brixton and Peckham. My leadership roles included Company Commander for Lambeth and Southwark boroughs, followed by Deputy Commandant. Concurrently, I founded a Corps of Drums and Band, eventually becoming the National Training Officer for Cadet Music.

In 2019, I was appointed the first Commandant of Army Cadets Music, overseeing the amalgamation of the Pipes & Drums with the Corps of Drums and Bands. After completing a five-year tenure in this pioneering role, I passed on the responsibility and now serve as Commandant of Shropshire ACF.

Family life is equally important to me. I am a proud parent of four children, two adults and two currently at school. My wife, Aliysha, is a nurse and serves as a Major in the ACF, as well as the Regional Music Advisor for the West Midlands. Together, we are deeply committed to supporting cadet activities.

An author of three books, I regularly deliver charity lectures to raise funds for the cadets. I am also an active Freemason, working to secure donations from lodges to benefit cadet programmes.”

Welcome to the team, Colonel Neville, the future looks bright for Shropshire ACF!



Annual Camp

This year's annual summer camp took place at the beginning of a scorching week at the start of August and what an amazing week it turned out to be!

As the Trust supporting the Shropshire Army Cadet Force (SACF) we were delighted to support the cadets in whatever way needed throughout the week – and we loved seeing the photos and reports.

This year the SACF were joined by Dorset ACF to share the week long split camp – 2/3 at Altcar and 1/3 at Holcombe Moore Training Camps. Cadets and Cadet Force Adult Volunteers (CFAVs) from both counties worked together seamlessly. A true lesson in team building and teamwork!

New skills and experiences were gained, memories and friendships made.

They say a picture paints a thousand words – and that is certainly true of the photos taken by Captain Simon Hill – thank you for sharing the photos to Facebook and for recording the week for the cadets, parents, volunteers, the Trust, the sponsors and also for the general public to see what a worthwhile organisation this is.



Farewell to Commandant Colonel John Mytton

In October we said a heartfelt thank you and farewell to SACF Commandant Col John Mytton.

Marking 50 Years of Dedication to the Army Cadet Force, the farewell dinner was a chance to celebrate an extraordinary career dedicated to the Army Cadet Force and generations of young people.

What a remarkable journey - From Cadet to Commandant: A Lifelong Commitment.



Final Photo: John receiving his 6th Clasp to the Cadet Forces Medal representing 50 years' service with the ACF from the Lord – Lieutenant of Shropshire, Mrs Anna Turner.

Bligny Band and Bugles

The Shropshire Army Cadet Force Bligny Band and Bugles has continued to train hard and support events throughout the year such as Battle of Britain 85 anniversary, our Trust's Annual Dinner and, of course, Remembrance Day.

There was a wonderful collaboration between the cadet forces and Lieutenant David Field, Officer Commanding of the Bligny Band and Bugles, to train members of the TS Wrekin Sea Cadet Corps Band with the aim of the partnership bringing together a Tri-Service Cadet Band to perform in unity for Remembrance, a fitting tribute to those who served and sacrificed.



Remembrance Day 2025 – Shropshire Remembers

Shropshire Army Cadet Force Trust is honoured to support the Army Cadets of Shropshire. We are so proud to see the part you played in Remembrance 2025. Countless hours were devoted by every detachment to support and amplify the Royal British Legion's Poppy Appeal, culminating in the deeply moving Remembrance Parades held throughout the county.



Trust Annual Dinner

In the late summer, Shropshire Army Cadet Force Trust held our inaugural Regimental dinner to highlight the work of the Trust, but most importantly Shropshire's Army cadets.

The event was hosted at Venning Barracks in Telford and was held to create awareness of the Trust to both the corporate guests and the wider community. It was also an opportunity to spread the word that volunteers are always welcome.

However, the highlight of the evening was the cadets themselves.

Cadets bring value to communities and workplaces. They develop skills for life, they gain vocational qualifications, they understand working as part of a team, and they know the importance of discipline – all attributes that enhance them as future employees of choice.

The cadet Bligny Band and Bugles set the atmosphere for the evening by playing a stirring set list, and then 3 cadets were welcomed to speak to the guests.

They shared how being a cadet had helped them to grow as a person, gain skills and confidence and enhanced their employment opportunities.

Cadet Company Sergeant Major (CSM) Charlie HALL B Company - Charlie has won a 4-year apprenticeship with Rheinmetall BAE Systems Land, starting in September.

Former Cadet Regimental Sergeant Major (RSM), Under Officer Joel KELLY, is now a Cadet Force Adult Volunteer (CFAV) - Joel is studying Biochemistry at University of Wales, Aberystwyth, and is also a member of the University Officer Training Corps (UOTC). Joel hopes to join the Regular Army.

Cadet Staff Sergeant Willow CHATTINGTON-LOWE, C Company - selected as Shropshire ACF's Lord Lieutenant Cadet 2025-2026 and currently awaiting her GSCE results.

Their stories were emotional and moved the crowd to their feet – as they reminded us of all the real impact this organisation has on young people's lives.

Our Chair – Dr. Graham Wynn OBE also highlighted that, for businesses and organisations that are bronze signatories to the Armed Forces Covenant, the need to demonstrate support to the Cadet movement as a whole by providing proactive support to individual cadets and/or to local cadet units. By pledging support to The Shropshire Army Cadet Force Trust, organisations will not only be fulfilling their obligation to the Covenant, but more importantly, underpinning a community of fantastic young people and the selfless adult volunteers who work tirelessly to assist them.

The event was an enormous success that raised over £1000 on the evening.



Shropshire ACF – Distinction at the 2025 Rifles Cup

In October, eight cadets and four Cadet Force Adult Volunteers (CFAVs) from Shropshire Army Cadet Force (ACF) represented their county with distinction at the 2025 Rifles Cup, hosted by the 1st Battalion the Rifles at the Caerwent Training Area in South Wales.

Over the weekend, the Shropshire team joined 13 other teams from both the Army Cadet Force (ACF) and Combined Cadet Force (CCF) to tackle a wide range of challenging military-themed activities designed and delivered by serving Riflemen.



The standout moment for Shropshire came at the final presentation, where their hard work and teamwork were rewarded with an impressive 2nd place finish among ACF teams, a tremendous result that reflects the dedication and talent within the unit.

Fantastic result – well done to you all!



Collaborative working - Fire and Rescue Services

Lt Col Sarling met with senior officers from the Shropshire Fire & Rescue Service recently to discuss potential collaborative working and ways of mutual support.

Potential initiatives were discussed including fire prevention training which would help those cadets complete their cadet syllabus, DofE programme and BTEC NVQ qualification.

Sponsors

We continue to welcome new sponsors.

We are also now entering our second year, and some sponsors have been with us from day 1.

We have a sponsorship programme that offers different level of support available for individuals and businesses to help us.

All details can be found on our website www.sacft.co.uk

Your support is so valuable to us – THANK YOU!

It has been fantastic to see businesses reaching out and getting involved with the Shropshire Army Cadets.



Back in September Wellington and Donnington Detachments were honoured to host the amazing team from Dyno-Rod Plumbing, Shropshire (THH Services), based in Telford.

Dyno-Rod joined the cadets to learn more about the Army Cadet Force, explore how they can support our mission, and discuss career opportunities for our cadets, helping to inspire the next generation of leaders!

Volunteering/Mentoring - 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/>



Sponsors



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
BISHOPSCASTLE	Cadet Centre	Station Rd	BISHOPSCASTLE	SY9 5DD
BRIDGNORTH	Cadet Centre	Oldbury Wells School	BRIDGNORTH	WV16 5JD
BROSELEY	Cadet Centre	Legges Hill	BROSELEY	TF125RD
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
ELLESMORE	Cadet Centre	Birch Rd	ELLESMORE	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
MARKETDRAYTON	Cadet Centre, Hedley Way	Bruntingsdale Park, Tern Hill Way	MARKETDRAYTON	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

