



Shropshire Army Cadet Force Trust

Newsletter August 2026
Issue No. 4

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

A word of welcome from County Commandant - Colonel Mike Neville

As Commandant of Shropshire Army Cadet Force (ACF), I am pleased to welcome you to this latest edition of the Trust newsletter. I am most grateful to the Trust for the financial support it gives to the cadets and this year it has enabled us to spend £16,000 on vital equipment and training. This has included new "laser" pistols and webbing equipment, as well as driver training for minibus users - vital to get the cadets from A to B! In addition, a substantial donation has been made to fund the 2027 diving trip to Malta, which will be a great experience for our cadets, some of whom have never been abroad before.

I have shown my own commitment to fund raising by donating the proceeds of the charity lectures on my books to the Trust and I hope that you can help too by joining the 50/50 scheme - where you have a chance of winning a nice prize!

As a retired senior police officer, I know that young people can, too often, drift into crime or anti-social behaviour. The activities and support provided by the ACF can divert them from such. I am particularly committed to helping the most vulnerable teenagers in our society.

In conclusion, I once again thank the Trust for all their help. It is greatly appreciated.



New Lord-Lieutenant Cadet 2026-27

On behalf of the County Commandant, Colonel Neville, Shropshire ACF is delighted to announce that Cadet Colour Serjeant Vihaan Giri of the Wellington Detachment has been selected from a highly competitive field of nominees for the esteemed role of ACF Lord-Lieutenant Cadet for Shropshire, succeeding Cadet Sergeant Major Willow Chattington-Lowe. He assumed his appointment on 21st May at the Lord-Lieutenant Cadet Presentation Evening.

Since joining in 2022, Cadet Colour Serjeant Giri has quickly become an outstanding leader at Wellington Detachment, stepping up to support training, mentoring new cadets, and playing a key role in building one of the county's largest and most diverse detachments. A dedicated volunteer beyond cadets, he supports local care homes and is fundraising for a 2027 trip to Zanzibar to help improve schools. Alongside achieving 4* cadet training, DofE success, and strong academic results, he also excels in sport, music, and computing.



Congratulations, this honour is truly well deserved, and we have no doubt that you will carry out your duties with the same dedication and commitment you have consistently demonstrated over the past few years.

Shropshire Mayor's Cadet

Shropshire Army Cadet Force is immensely proud to announce that Cadet Sergeant Rebecca Westwood, of Donnington Detachment, B Company, has been appointed as this year's Mayor's Cadet by Oakengates Town Council. Rebecca will hold this prestigious appointment for a 12-month term, a well-deserved honour, and a fantastic recognition of her outstanding service.

Her relentless commitment to the detachment has truly shone through. Rebecca is a dependable source of support to both CFAVs and fellow cadets, and she sets a strong example for her peers and younger cadets alike. Currently a 3-Star Sergeant, she has also completed her Cadet Instructor's Cadre, achieved her Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award, and is now working towards her Silver Award. Rebecca embodies the values of the Army Cadet Force and consistently demonstrates the qualities expected of a Mayor's Cadet: dedication, leadership, discipline, and selflessness.



Congratulations, Cadet Sergeant Westwood, you have done us all proud. We have no doubt you will be an outstanding representative in this role, and we wish you every success throughout your tenure as Mayor's Cadet.

Celebrating Success and Creating Tomorrow's Leaders

Cadet Life - Shropshire Army Cadet Force Cadet Regimental Sergeant Major Darcey Gallacher

What an incredible achievement, a truly proud moment for Cadet Regimental Sergeant Major Gallacher and for the entire Shropshire Army Cadet Force. In just four years, she has risen from the very first steps of her cadet journey to the absolute pinnacle of cadet achievement, being promoted to Cadet Regimental Sergeant Major, the highest rank a cadet can attain within the Army Cadet Force.

We asked Darcey to tell us what being part of Shropshire Army Cadet Force has meant to her:

"Nearly five years ago, I joined the Army Cadet Force as a slightly nervous 13-year-old, unsure of what to expect. As I prepare to complete my cadet journey as the Regimental Sergeant Major for Shropshire ACF, it's incredible to look back at just how much has changed. While my rank has certainly changed over the years, I would say the biggest change has been myself.

The ACF has given me confidence, resilience, and self-belief. It has taught me to lead, to support others and, perhaps most importantly, to shout really loud! The opportunities I have been given are ones I never imagined possible. I have represented Shropshire in both Cadet Target Rifle and Cadet Clay Target competitions, taken part in countless exercises and camps, been Parade Marshal for my town's Remembrance Parade, and in August I will hopefully complete Master Cadet. Every challenge has pushed me to become a better leader and a more capable young adult.

One of the greatest lessons cadets has taught me is the true meaning of teamwork. I've learnt that a strong team isn't made up of people who are all the same or equally good at everything. Instead, it is built on bringing together people with different strengths, experiences, and personalities, then finding the best way for everyone to contribute. Some people naturally lead from the front, others quietly keep everything running behind the scenes, and both are equally important. As a leader, I've learnt that recognising each person's strengths, while supporting them where they need encouragement, creates a team that achieves far more together than any individual could alone.

Looking back to my first Annual Camp at Altcar in 2022 and preparing for my final one this summer feels like coming full circle. The Army Cadet Force has been so much more than a Monday and Wednesday commitment; it has given me lifelong friendships, unforgettable experiences, and memories that I will always treasure. Whether it was leading fieldcraft exercises, taking part in national events or even "trying" to write a Christmas Camp skit, every experience has taught me something new and helped shape who I am today.

The skills I've gained through the ACF have been invaluable. Leadership, teamwork, discipline, communication, and the confidence to step outside my comfort zone are qualities I will carry with me throughout my future career and life. Above all, cadets has taught me that leadership is about understanding people, valuing what each individual brings and helping them achieve more than they thought possible.

As I prepare to leave cadets, I do so with a lot of gratitude. The Army Cadet Force hasn't just been something I joined on a whim; it has been a defining part of my life. Although my time as a cadet is coming to an end, the lessons, friendships, and memories will stay with me for many years to come.



SACF New Regimental Sergeant Major

In February Shropshire Army Cadet Force appointed a new Regimental Sergeant Major WO1 Craig Gray.

The newly appointed Regimental Sergeant Major began his Army Cadet Force journey at the age of 13, joining Shropshire ACF as a Cadet at Bishop's Castle Detachment. That early experience proved formative, creating lifelong friendships and even leading to meeting his future wife through the Cadets.

After time away, he returned to the organisation as a Cadet Force Adult Volunteer (CFAV), beginning his adult service 18 years ago as a Potential Instructor (PI) at Craven Arms Detachment. When the detachment later relocated and became Church Stretton Detachment, he was given the privilege of opening the new detachment. In its early months, this was achieved with limited resources yet quickly developed into a thriving unit of 25–30 cadets.

Following several successful years, he moved to Shrewsbury Detachment as an Instructor before being appointed Detachment Commander (DC) of Cophthorne Detachment, a role he fulfilled for approximately six years.



At an Annual Camp, he was encouraged to sit the board for Company Sergeant Major (CSM), a path he had not previously considered. After taking that step, he was successfully selected as CSM, B Company, marking his first posting outside of C Company. During this time, he was heavily involved in Senior Cadet and Adult training, an aspect of the role he found particularly rewarding.

Now appointed Regimental Sergeant Major (RSM), he aims to serve as a vital link between Officers and Senior Non-Commissioned Officers, supporting and encouraging CFAVs while helping guide them along their chosen development pathways. Their appointment reflects a long-standing commitment to cadet development, leadership, and the continued strength of the County.

Congratulations RSM, truly deserved and we look forward to what you will do with your tenure, you have the full support of SACF.

SACF Presentation Events 2026

In February, Shropshire Army Cadet Force proudly hosted a spectacular Presentation Day to honour the outstanding achievements of our dedicated CFAVs and Senior Cadets. It was a truly inspiring occasion, celebrating commitment, perseverance, and excellence across our organisation.

Throughout the day, both Cadets and Adult Volunteers were recognised for their accomplishments within the Army Cadet Syllabus (ACS), well-earned promotions to senior ranks and key appointments, and for their exceptional service and unwavering dedication to SACF. Each award represented countless hours of hard work, leadership, and determination.

To everyone who received recognition, you should be immensely proud of your achievements. Your commitment strengthens our organisation and inspires those around you.

Congratulations, and thank you for everything you do. Keep striving, keep leading, and keep achieving!



Tri Service National Clay Target Competition – April 2026

Shropshire Army Cadet Force delivered an outstanding performance at the Tri Service National Clay Target Competition, held at Cambridge Gun Club on 11th and 12th April 2026. Demonstrating skill and determination, Team A secured a superb 2nd place overall in the ACF DTL competition, while Team B achieved an impressive 3rd place. In the individual DTL category, two of our talented cadets claimed 2nd and 3rd positions, with one of them also earning a remarkable 3rd place in the ACF Sporting (individual) event. The county is extremely proud of all the cadets who represented Shropshire and their respective detachments (Abraham Darby, Church Stretton, Copthorne, Ellesmere, Market Drayton, and Newport) with such distinction, and their achievements are a testament to their hard work and dedication. Again, on 30 May, Shropshire ACF hosted the 2026 Shropshire Tri-Service Cadet Clay Target Competition at Donnington. The event was another great success, bringing together cadets from all three services: Sea Cadets, Army Cadets, and Air Cadets.

It was fantastic to see such a high standard of talent and enthusiasm on display throughout the competition. Every cadet who took part should be immensely proud of representing their respective service with honour, dedication, and professionalism.

The majority of the silverware was shared between the Army Cadets and Air Cadets, reflecting the impressive performances delivered on the day. However, the true highlight of the competition was the outstanding sportsmanship demonstrated by all participants, who competed in the spirit of friendship and mutual respect.

Congratulations to all the cadets who took part and contributed to making the event such a memorable occasion.

Special thanks must also go to the Cadet Forces Adult Volunteers who generously gave their time and effort to support the competition and ensure its successful delivery.



Swynnerton Military Skills Training

Shropshire Army Cadet Force dispatched two top teams to Swynnerton Training Area to compete against other cadet units in a rigorous test of military skills. The cadets faced immediate inspection upon arrival and quickly set up camp in an old ammunition bunker, braving a frosty first night.

The first full day began bright and early, with cadets tackling six demanding stands including First Aid, Communications, Harbour Drills, Ambush Drills, Section Attack, and a challenging planning exercise. Despite the intense heat, morale remained high and camaraderie flourished as stories were shared at day's end.

Day two brought an early start and a tough navigation challenge, pushing both their fitness and teamwork to the limit. Every cadet gave maximum effort, racing against the clock to collect points across the training area.

The results were outstanding: Shropshire ACF B Coy secured a brilliant 2nd place, bringing home silverware for the county, while the combined A/C Coy team achieved a commendable 7th place.

This remarkable success was made possible thanks to the commitment of the CFAV and the determination of every cadet involved."



Cadet Training Weekend

From 15 to 17 May, B and C Company travelled to Nesscliffe for a weekend of fieldcraft training.

Cadets took part in a range of fieldcraft activities, including camouflage and concealment, shelter building, field cooking, patrolling, and observation posts.

For many, it was their first time away from home, and they showed impressive determination, resilience and independence while learning new skills in very wet and cold conditions.

Many passed the fieldcraft elements of their star grades, and a small number completed their Basic or 1* qualification, an excellent start to their cadet journey. Senior cadets also had the chance to apply the skills they recently developed on their Junior and Senior Cadet Instructor courses by helping to deliver lessons. Their maturity, patience, and strong instructional and leadership skills made a significant contribution to the weekend's success.



County Banner Parade

On May 31st, Shropshire Army Cadet Force proudly gathered at St Alkmund's Church for their esteemed Annual County Banner Day Parade, a deeply rooted tradition that honours the dedication, discipline, and spirit of its cadets and volunteers. This prestigious event, attended by the Lord-Lieutenant of Shropshire, Mrs Anna Turner, brought together cadets from across the county, local dignitaries, community leaders, and proud families in a celebration of service and heritage.

The highlight of the day was the Drumhead Ceremony, where all County and Detachment banners were formally presented and blessed. The service included a heartfelt blessing over the cadets and their banners, symbolising a renewed commitment for the year ahead. In a poignant moment of reflection and unity, the banners were ceremonially handed over to the cadets who will carry them forward with pride. Banner Day remains a treasured occasion in the Shropshire ACF calendar, a powerful testament to the camaraderie and shared values that define this exceptional youth organisation.



Armed Forces Week

On 30 May, Donnington Detachment took 14 cadets to the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire.

The visit was a valuable and meaningful opportunity for the cadets to broaden their military knowledge in support of their 2- and 3-Star training. Throughout the day, detachment staff guided them around the site, where they explored a range of memorials, including the Cadet Forces Memorial, Gallipoli Memorial, Policing Memorial, KSLI, and Bastion. The cadets also learned about the story of Private Herbert Burden, along with the 345 other soldiers who were punished during the First World War. This encouraged reflection and thoughtful discussion among the group.



The visit highlighted the many different forms of service and sacrifice, while also showing how memorials are designed not only to remember the past, but also to provoke thought and emotion in those who visit. Overall, it was a thoroughly educational and memorable day for everyone involved."



Armed Forces Day Family Fun event 2026 - Shrewsbury

It was lovely to see the Army Cadets of Shropshire participating in the Armed Forces Day Family Fun Event at Shrewsbury Castle.

Their presence was a way of demonstrating their gratitude to armed forces personnel.

In soaring temperatures the Cadets paraded, there was live music from the Bligny Band and Bugles and an opportunity to talk to members of the public about their life as cadets.

Well done to you all - the Trust is proud of you!



Shropshire Army Cadet Force Trust launches new 50/50 scheme

A new fund-raising scheme has been launched to support the Shropshire Army Cadet Force. Shropshire Army Cadets offers young people adventure, camaraderie, skill-building, self-discipline, and lifelong friendships. The skills are transferrable and recognised in the world of work, quite often making cadets employees of choice. The Shropshire Army Cadet Force Trust (SACFT) raises money to support local cadets by providing funding for equipment and activities not provided by the Ministry of Defence. This includes adventure training, subsidised camps, overseas trips, essential kit, and band activities not provided by the Ministry of Defence. By raising sufficient funds, all Cadets have an equal chance to benefit from gaining new skills, friendships, and prospects through the development programmes. The new scheme is called 50/50.

- You can join the scheme by donating just £5 per month but participants must be over 16 years of age.
- 50% of your donation goes directly to the Trust for the Army Cadets, with additional Gift Aid where applicable
 - 50% enters the participant into four prize draws per year.
- To join the 50/50 Scheme and help support Shropshire Army Cadets please email: honsec@sacft.co.uk

PATRONAGE PACKAGES

Sponsoring the Trust offers a unique opportunity to contribute to the development of tomorrow's leaders.

Sponsorship benefits encompass:

- Opportunities for local corporate social responsibility (CSR) and community involvement.
- Enhanced brand visibility by displaying your logo and company bio on our website and promotional channels.
- Positive national and local PR coverage.
- Participation in entertaining clients at prospective events and fundraising activities.
- Networking opportunities for collaborative ventures and business growth.

We have 3 packages available:

Friends of SACFT	Corporate Sponsors of SACFT	Corporate Patrons of SACFT
Quarterly E/newsletter	Quarterly Newsletter	Quarterly Newsletter
Acknowledgement on our website	Acknowledgement on our website	Acknowledgement on our website
Advanced notice of activities and events	Advanced notice of activities and events	Advanced notice of activities and events
Certificate of recognition	Company logo on our website	Logo on our website
	Link from our website to your business website	Link from our website to your business website
	Two FREE OF CHARGE invitations to the annual black-tie dinner	Bio paragraph about your company on our website
	Certificate of recognition and plaque	Four FREE OF CHARGE invitations to the annual black tie dinner
		Certificate and plaque
Individuals £100 per year	£950 per year for 3 years	£1950 per year for 3 years
Corporate £250 per year		

TRUST CURRY DINNER NIGHT

On Friday 13th November 2026 our Trust will be hosting a Trust Curry Dinner Night at Venning Barracks Officers Mess (TF2 8LF). **Entry by pre-purchased ticket only.**

Canapes & Pre-Dinner Drinks
Curry Meal with Nan Bread, Bhajis, Samosas, Mango Chutney & Yoghurt Dips.
Choice of Sweet.
Wine on the table.

There will be entertainment by the Bligny Band and Bugles and a charity raffle.
Attendees will have updates on the Trust and Shropshire Army Cadet Force.
Dress code: Mess Kit/ Black Tie or Lounge Suits and as appropriate for Ladies.
£49.50p per person

If you would like tickets, please make payment to:
Shropshire Army Cadet Force Trust
Account Number: 09611578 Sort Code: 05-02-00
Please e-mail: honsec@sacft.co.uk to order your ticket(s).



Join the fun – Volunteer with the cadets

If you are at the stage of wanting to 'give something back' and have some time to dedicate to serving the Shropshire community and nurturing tomorrow's leaders, The Shropshire Army Cadet Force Trust has many rewarding opportunities for you to explore.

Whether you are a business or an individual, we welcome your support.

Photo credit and text contribution by Cpt Simon Hill.

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	Cophorne Barracks	SHREWSBURY	SY3 8LZ
BISHOPS CASTLE	Cadet Centre	Station Rd	BISHOPS CASTLE	SY9 5DD
BRIDGNORTH	Cadet Centre	Oldbury Wells School	BRIDGNORTH	WW16 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	Cophorne 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	Cophorne 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

The Detachment at Bishops Castle has been shut for several years, but now two ACF instructors and a non-uniformed volunteer have been identified to run the unit. It is hoped to start recruiting in the new school term and have the unit fully opened by 2027.

**Anyone interested in joining the unit should contact
honsec@sacft.co.uk**

**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**



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