



THE SHROPSHIRE RIFLE

Spring 2010 Issue

THE SHROPSHIRE RIFLE
UO Julie Breeze PRO

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF SHROPSHIRE ARMY CADET FORCE

CHRISTMAS COUNTY WEEKEND 2009



IN THIS ISSUE

**CHRISTMAS
COUNTY
WEEKEND**

**PRESENTATION
EVENING
MARCH 2010**

**SHIFNAL
CADET 150
OPEN DAY**

**CAMP
PENALLY
2010**

**THIS ISSUE'S
PERSONALITY**

**ADVENTURE
TRAINING**

**WELLINGTON
SHOOTING
PICTURES**

**LORD LT CADET
SERVICE**

**RORKE'S DRIFT
SOLO**

**D OF E
NEWS**



CHRISTMAS COUNTY WEEKEND CONTINUED.





PRESENTATION EVENING MARCH 11TH 2010



Shropshire Army Cadet Force held a presentation evening at their county HQ, this is to award adults and cadets for their various achievements. These are from years of service to representing the county in both regional and national competitions. Also awarding our civilian assistants to thank them for the behind the scenes work they so tirelessly do. The evening was well attended with the awards being presented by our Mayor of Shrewsbury and the High Sheriff of Shropshire.





Shifnal Troop RLC, Shropshire ACF

Open Day



Shifnal Troop RLC kicked off Shropshire Army Cadet Force's Cadet 150 celebrations with an open day held at the Detachment on Saturday 6th March 2010.

The aim of the event was to showcase the Army Cadet Force in Shropshire to parents, supporters, members of the general public and to recruit new cadets. During the day visitors had the opportunity to speak to Cadets and Adult staff about the ACF and participate in different activities which the ACF has to offer.

The Cadets and Staff designed a series of demonstration and participation stands to highlight their skills and give an overview of what life is like being a member of the ACF. These ranged from shooting, field cooking, a first aid casualty simulation exercise, cam and concealment, observation lane, mini obstacle course and a presentation on what being a Cadet can offer young people.

During the day the Troop received around 60 visitors and interested young people keen to have a go at some of the activities and find out about the ACF.



Although a request to the QM's Department for sunshine and warm weather was declined all our guest braved the Nordic conditions and kept warm by drinking copious amounts of tea, coffee and enjoyed the BBQ burgers and hot dogs cooked by "Chef extraordinaire" PI Matt Chamberlain.

As a result of the day, the Troop has recruited 15 new Cadets, made new community contacts to further the portfolio for the Cadet in the Community programme and also raised the profile of the Army Cadet Force within Shifnal.

Captain S Cuthbert
Troop Commander.





CADET 150 OUR SPECIAL YEAR, EVENTS TO LOOK FORWARD TO



9th MAY

FLAG DEDICATION AT ST ALKMUNDS CHURCH, SHREWSBURY

26th JUNE

ADULT BALL, ALBRIGHTON HALL, SHREWSBURY

3rd JULY

DETACHMENT COMPETITION DAY

CADETS FORMAL BALL AT SWYNNERTON CAMP

4th JULY

CADET SUNDAY, FREEDOM PARADE THROUGH SHREWSBURY

RECEPTION AT SHREWSBURY CASTLE FOR VIP'S

RECEPTION AT COPTHORNE BARRACKS FOR CADETS AND FAMILY

TREE PLANTING

DATE TO BE CONFIRMED

TIME CAPSULE

DATE TO BE CONFIRMED

DISPLAY AT SHREWSBURY CASTLE SHOWING HISTORY OF CADETS

COMMEMORATIVE BROCHURE AVAILABLE IN 2011



This issue's personality... **SSI SIMON HILL, DONNINGTON DETACHMENT COMMANDER.**



Simon Hill joined Shropshire Army Cadet Force in November 1999 at Donnington detachment. He was a cadet there for 3 years. While he was there he achieved his Four Star, Bronze and Silver D of E, completed the Nijmegen marches twice and was promoted to Sergeant, this to name just a few of his achievements.

Simon cut his cadet career short to become an adult instructor in March 2003, where he was posted at Donnington for a short period then he was moved to help instruct at Madeley where he made very significant changes in the nightly running of the detachment. After approximately 6 months he was moved back to Donnington. About a year later in February 2005 he was offered his first detachment at Oswestry where he was there he was promoted to SSI. Simon ran Oswestry for about 10 months before personal reasons meant he resigned as the DC at Oswestry. In January 2007 he was posted to

Wellington detachment as an instructor. In October of that year Simon became Detachment Commander and he then went on to run the detachment for just over two years. Simon's biggest achievements at Wellington was to become the top detachment drill instructor in 2007, taking the detachment from 9th to 2nd in the Lucas tooth and coming 1st in the APC progression and drill competition.

Simon was then offered the chance to run Donnington in November 2009 exactly one decade after starting there as a cadet. Since he has been there he has made a massive transformation to a very run-down detachment so that it is now a new and thriving one.

He has numerous military, adventure training and civilian qualifications including:

- Bronze & Silver Duke of Edinburgh
- Qualified Range Conducting Officer (Ancillary Range Duties, Small-Bore, Full-Bore, Dismounted Close Combat Trainer)
- Qualified instructor (Initial Training Course, Adult Instructors Course, King George VI)
- Mobile climbing wall operator and user
- Basic Rock Climbing Proficiency
- First Aid
- Basic Food & Hygiene
- Stonebow practical trainer

Simon has an NVQ level 2 in "I.T. & Design" and has recently finished a web design course at college. Using these skills will help in giving Shropshire ACF website a facelift.

His aspirations for his future in Shropshire ACF, include becoming a Company Sergeant Major and then a Officer. He also hopes to lead a team going to the Nijmegen marches.





Shropshire Army Cadet Force Annual Camp 2010

Camp 2010 is being held at Penally Camp, Pembrokeshire South Wales.



Whilst it is a small camp it offers every amenity we will need, as the County will fit into the camp comfortably. The amenities include a 16 lane 600 metre range on our doorstep. It has a large lecture theatre, classrooms and a small training area only half a mile away, at Templeton Airfield.

The camp programme will be designed to encourage APC passes and all activities at camp will be directed to that end.

If you go to camp as a recruit, you should return a 1 star, 1 star become a 2 star etc., and we will be running a recce platoon exercise for those 2 and 3 star who would like to volunteer. This will be held alongside a contingent of Canadian cadets who are visiting us at camp.

For those who enjoy shooting there will be a specialist shooting cadre, who will spend all their time on the range firing the cadet L98A2, LSW and cadet target rifle.

The camp programme, whilst APC orientated, will still include plenty of our usual activities such as Shooting, Adventure Training, and a two day exercise.

There will be a Potential Instructor course run at camp as well to 'pick up' all those PI's yet to undertake one.



Dates for all of you to write into your diary and on to your calendars

Adults 24th July – 4th August

Cadets 25th July – 4th August.

The cost is £60 per Cadet; extremely good value for 12 days away.



Let your parents and employers know so you have the time off and let's hope for good weather for a thoroughly enjoyable 2010 Camp. Not forgetting this is our Cadet150 Camp.





A TASTE OF WINTER

AT in Shropshire ACF

2Lt Jason Till

CATO

In February this year, I went to Inverness, Scotland to carry out some winter mountaineering and this is my story.....

I have been going to Scotland most years to carry out winter mountaineering for some time now in working towards my Winter Mountain Leader award but this year has been pretty special for two reasons; I did not have the opportunity to go last year due to going to Spain, and it was a fantastic year for snow and ice with great conditions all over Scotland and indeed the UK.

Day 1, A long and boring drive from Shropshire to Inverness that lasted approximately 8 hours, this took me to Cameron Barracks where I arrived in time for a briefing for the week ahead. I quickly settled in to my accommodation and then sorted my kit out. I was issued a few final bits of kit that I did not already have, like a transceiver, a medium sized device that you wear on your body in case of being in an avalanche so that people can find you.



Day 2, Today was skill fade refresher to remind us how to arrest a slide on snow and ice with just an Ice Axe (and after a year this was invaluable), and the chance to teach introductory students as well as passing on our knowledge is a good way of cementing the knowledge back in the heads. We also used the perfect weather conditions to practice snow bollards, bucket seats and stomper belays. These are all different ways to bring people up and down steep slopes safely, skills that we would need to put into practice the next day. Finally a quick blast up one of the nearby mountains to get used to having crampons on our feet was the order of the day.

Day 3, We had a mountain day coupled with a grade 1 winter climb to confirm the belay skills we had reminded ourselves of the day before. It was a long walk in through a forest but with all the snow it looked just like a Christmas scene. However with all the latest avalanche and weather reports at our disposal it was easy for us to work out a route that was safe yet adventurous. We climbed up and up, having to do it in pitches where the first person would climb up set up a belay stance, then bring up the next person. They would then take over until they get to a certain place and then it's their turn to belay. Eventually we reached the summit cold, tired and well and truly tired only for the realisation that when you hit the summit you really are then only half way. And if it's a long walk in, then usually it's a long walk out. We got to the forest that we walked through on the walk in; the track that should have been there was not and in its place was a high deer fence and some young plantations. So over the fence we went, then back to the mini bus and a long drive back to base (made even longer by more snowfall).

Day 4, After the hard 'work-out' of the day before we all decided to practice more technical stuff, from emergency snow





shelters, and snowpack evaluation to a welcome refresher to confidence roping. Then to Cafe Mambo for their world famous hot chocolates (other cafes are available) in Aviemoor as well as drooling in the gear shops for that must get gadget and clothing.

Day 5, This was meant to be our BIG day, and boy it did not let us down. We were originally going to go over to the West country to do a route on Ben Nevis called the Ledge Route, a grade 2 winter climb, but due to the massive amount of snow that was deposited during the night it made all routes in that area a huge avalanche risk and one that would put us in perilous danger. So we decided to go a little closer and have a crack at Beinn Dearg (pronounced Ben Jerag) but with all the snow, so dry that it was just powder up to our thighs, this was made even more physically challenging. After taking it in turns to slog it out in front (or trail blazing as it's called) we eventually reached the summit. With blue skies and hardly any wind it was reminiscent of the Alps, although at our altitude it was much easier to breathe. Another long walk out, but with fantastic views this time it wasn't as bad.

Day 6, Today was our day to refresh our navigation. Although we had been doing this all week, today was "micro naving" when we go to kinks in a contour line as opposed to "macro naving" when we go to major points like stream junctions or spurs and re-entrants. So with each member having a set point to go to we all diligently counted our paces, checked nav and checked our timings and this proved very successful and reiterated just how accurate navigation is when you put all the tricks taught together. The only problem was that we were blessed with near perfect weather. The only time that you actually want fog or a white out!!



After we spent a good 5 hours micro-naving (enough for anyone) we went back to base to tidy up the accommodation, hand back stores and attend the final de-brief. A good night's sleep was in order in readiness for the long boring drive home.

Although winter mountaineering is more physically challenging than summer the rewards are far superior and to that point it is my aim that next year I wish to take a minibus full of Shropshire ACF cadets and adults up to Scotland to savour the fun that can be had in the snow. In fact I would say it is probably the most fun you can have with your clothes on!! Also next year we will have the opportunity to go skiing, so watch this space!!

FINALLY, don't forget the County AT dates:

AT Weekend 1: 14 – 16 May 2010, Capel Curig Training Camp

3 Peaks Challenge Weekend: 04 – 06 June 2010, Nationwide

Scotland AT Expedition: 15 – 27 August 2010, Feshiebridge Lodge

AT Weekend 2: 10 – 12 September 2010, Capel Curig Training Camp

And look at the AT Website for courses that may interest you at:

www.armycadetadventure.info

Speak to the County Adventure Training Officer to find out more info and look out for his visit to your detachments coming soon.



WELLINGTON DETACHMENT SHOOTING EVENING AT WREKIN COLLEGE.



LORD LIEUTENANT CADET 2010.

Cdt CSgt Jake Farrell joined Shropshire ACF in December 2005. Throughout his time he has progressed through the Army Proficiency Syllabus culminating with the completion of his Senior Cadet Instructors Cadre. He has proved his ability as an instructor with dedicated service, great commitment and supporting his fellow cadets. He has a full understanding of what the County tries to achieve by developing the organisation and giving many young people the chance to achieve.

He has represented the County and his Company in sport, Military Skills Competitions, Shooting and other areas. He has been a reliable leader and example for cadets around the County, an ambassador we are extremely proud of.

Cdt CSgt Farrell has assisted with both the Scouting Movement and the Royal British Legion in Ellesmere. He has visited the Look at Life with the Royal Irish Regiment. He has just passed the Initial Entry Requirements for joining the Royal Marines.

This citation is due to his hard work and the efforts he has displayed since his enrolment and because he is a high achiever epitomising the Cadet moto of "Inspire to Achieve".



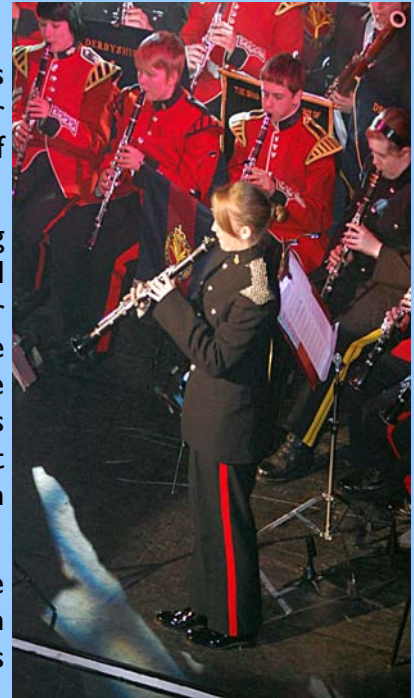


SHROPSHIRE MUSIC CADET SOLO AT CADET150 RORKE'S DRIFT CONCERT.

Shropshire Army Cadet Force Band annually support the Rorke's Drift concert held in Theatr Brycheiniog in Brecon. This year our Cadet150 year one of our senior cadets had the opportunity of performing a solo in front of a packed theatre.

Danielle Draper has been playing music since the age of six. Starting with the piano, she then studied Clarinet when she was seven and Saxophone at the tender age of eleven. Danielle has now passed her grade eight examinations on all three instruments taking her grade eight on Clarinet when she only fourteen. Danielle joined the Shropshire Army Cadet Force band when she was thirteen and has been playing with them for four years. She is currently in her last year at college studying Music and Sociology and is hoping to join the army as a musician later this year.

Theatr Brycheiniog's location alongside the head of the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal in the heart of the Brecon Beacons gives the theatre a stunning setting, unique amongst arts organisations in Wales. Well worth the visit.



Shropshire ACF Converts to eDofE

The county is taking its first steps into eDofE, the Duke of Edinburgh's Award new online management system.



It has long been seen that we all use technology. Many people have a mobile phone, Sat Nav is now used in most cars. Young people are expected to use IT in their every day lives. Primary schools set homework online. So you can imagine where the Award would be, if they did not embrace the use of technology.

But what does it mean to the cadet. Well the most important aspect of eDofE is that it helps young people manage and record their DofE activities, taking real ownership of their programme and evidencing this in a imaginative and creative way, using text, images, film and sound. The need for their book to be passed around has gone. eDofE will provide everyone with a clearer picture of the participants in real time.

It also allows Leaders to manage and monitor progress, improves communication and provides management information to help the Award Officer to manage and improve access and delivery at all levels.

So how do cadets join the award. Well the cadet fills out the enrolment form as before (a new version of which will be hitting the streets soon) – this includes the agreement on use of data. They pay the registration fee – in the usual way. £12 from April. The Detachment then sends the form and cheque to the DofE Officer. (Capt Lewis)

The DofE Officer/QM sends Welcome Pack (Brown pizza box) to the detachment. Coy Officer/Group Leader then sets up participant place. The System sends a participant username and password. The cadet can then enter the basic compulsory details – these include basic information to help us monitor participation e.g. address. Whilst compulsory, the vast majority of participants seem happy to provide the information there is the option of 'prefer not to say'.

Then that's it, the award is then live. Bronze, Silver and Gold soon follows. Good Luck!



THE SHROPSHIRE RIFLE

Shropshire Army Cadet Force
Cophthorne Barracks
Cophthorne Road
Shrewsbury
SY3 8LZ
Telephone 01743 231779
or email
info@shropshireacf.org.uk.

WEBSITE

www.shropshireacf.org.uk

**GOT SOME NEWS?
DETACHMENT
COMMANDERS GET IN
TOUCH WITH THE PR
UNIT.**

**PRO—AUO BREEZE or
MAJOR BUDRYK.
NEXT NEWSLETTER
AUTUMN 2010**

The Army Cadet Force (ACF) is the Army's National Voluntary Youth Organisation for 12 to 18yr old boys and girls. Its aim is to inspire young people to achieve success in life, with the spirit of service to Queen and Country and their local community alike. In Shropshire there are 22 Detachments with over 550 cadets, which generally meet twice a week.

The cadets participate in a full range of activities which include, Adventure Training, Community Work, First Aid Sport and Military Skills.

The ACF are also participants in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme, also BTEC. For more information contact us through the website.

SHROPSHIRE ARMY CADET FORCE

Commandant

Colonel M J Watkins MBE

Deputy Commandant/ County Training Officer

Lieutenant Colonel M D Coulon TD

Cadet Executive Officer

Major J Coleman

Deputy County Training Officer/BTEC Officer

Major K M Budryk

Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme Officer

Captain B G Lewis

Public Relations Officer

Adult Under Officer J A Breeze

STOP PRESS ! NEWS !

CADET I50 WRISTBANDS
CURRENTLY ON SALE,
£1 EACH.
RAISING FUNDS FOR
CADET I50
PRO STILL FUNDRAISING
AFTER CLIMBING
SNOWDON
AGAIN RAISING FUNDS
FOR CADET I50

CADET I50 RAFFLE
TICKETS ON SALE.
EXCELLENT PRIZES.
WILL YOU BE THE ONE
SITTING IN FRONT OF THE
40" TV?
ONLY £1 A TICKET.
LETS MAKE IT AN EXCELLENT
YEAR TO REMEMBER.

GOSSIP, POEMS, NEWS
WANTED, GET YOUR
NEWS AND VIEWS
PUBLISHED, SPEAK TO
THE PUBLIC
RELATIONS OFFICER,
UO J BREEZE.