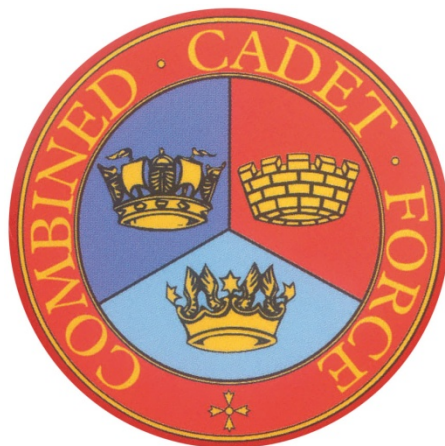


HELE'S / ST. PETER'S C.O.F.E HIGH SCHOOL. EXETER COMBINED CADET FORCE



**SUPPLEMENT TO
HISTORY OF THE CONTINGENT
1938 – 1999**

FOREWORD

Supplement to History of the Contingent 1938-99

A large number of past C.C.F. members attended the very successful Reception to mark the 75th Anniversary of the Foundation of the Contingent on November 1st, 1938.

Whilst trying to establish contact I was very impressed, but not surprised, by the variety and quality of the chosen careers of ex-cadets, both in military and civilian occupations. Hence this Supplement.

I am particularly grateful to those who took the trouble to reply to my appeal; in some instances the contributions have been paraphrased. Others, though invited to contribute, have for a variety of reasons declined to do so. Some brief information has been gleaned from conversations, internet entries, letters, e-mails and social media.

This Supplement is not complete, and past Corps members are encouraged to contribute and/or suggest corrections, additions or amendments by post or e-mail (details below).

I firmly believe that the following accounts not only have great value in themselves, but offer example and inspiration for current and future generations of young people.

Perhaps my views are best expressed in the following quotations:-

1. Ray Mears in his book "My Outdoor Life" published by Hodder & Stoughton 2013:

"We have an incredibly rich vein of young people out there. The ones that you never see mentioned. The Cadet Force helps them to learn something about themselves, and empowers them to take responsibility and to support themselves. This engenders something unique, to the greater benefit of society."

2. Lt. Cdr. George Murray le Vick RN, a member of Capt. Scott's last expedition to the Antarctic in 1911/12, and founder of the "British Exploring Society" (for young people):-

"Unless we foster a spirit of adventure - we stand a good chance of losing it."

I am most grateful to the following in the production of this supplement :- Mrs Joan Carr for word processing the text, and Tim Stephenson of Myraltis for producing the digital version.

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Summer 2014

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INTRODUCTION

Lieutenant General Sir Andrew Ridgway KBE CB

It was a great pleasure to be invited to write a few words as the introduction to this hugely impressive catalogue of successful life stories, and all with one thing in common – they were all greatly influenced by the Combined Cadet Corps at Hele’s or St Peter’s School. My personal experience of Hele’s was that it had a fundamental influence on my life. I am absolutely clear that whatever I might have achieved in the Armed Forces and since was all down to what I learned at School and the influence that the Headmaster Sam Medlar and his teaching staff had upon me. At the forefront of this learning experience was my time in the Combined Cadet Corps. It was this experience, and the advice of teachers like Jack Harrison, that encouraged me to apply to go to Sandhurst in the first place and I will be forever grateful for that encouragement. What is interesting when reading through this file of documents is that many others, over a long time period, clearly had the same experience. It is fascinating to see how many refer back to their time in the CCF as being seminal to their development, and how many cite participation in Ten Tors as being a major influence. I would wholeheartedly agree! I am also pleased to see the increasing significance of the Duke of Edinburgh’s Award Scheme and the number of young people who passed through the School achieving a Gold Award. I took a keen interest in the Awards when we were serving in Jersey and I remain in awe of those young people who made the huge commitment required to earn a Gold Award.



The result of the School’s influence was, of course, to set young people out on the road to a successful career and a fulfilling life. The pages of this document are full of the accounts of so many who took advantage of what the School had to offer in a whole variety of careers. There are many, like me, that entered the Armed Forces and had successful careers in the Royal Navy and the Royal Air Force as well as the Army; and many that passed through University officer training organizations and the Reserve Forces. Equally there are many that went on to excel in a whole range of other careers including the Police; teaching, industry and just about everything else including, of course, the famous Michael Caines and his stunningly successful Michelin starred restaurant! And all of this not to mention our School’s success in producing Golf Croquet champions!!

There are also many reports in this file of those who have only just started out on their career pathways. What we all know is that they have had the best possible start to their lives. I am sure that we all join in wishing them well in the careers that they choose and hope that they too will look back fondly on their time at School and be especially grateful for the influence of the Combined Cadet Force.

Andrew Ridgway

Lieutenant General Sir Andrew Ridgway KBE CB

Darrin Abbot

Darrin served in the Army for 20 years, part of which with Lt. Gen. Sir Andrew Ridgway. He now works in the Defence Industry as Head of Future Business and Marketing.

Colonel R W Barnes, CBE Late Kings (72-74)

Bob Barnes was born in Kingston-on-Thames in 1958, but spent most of his youth in Devon (with the exception of four years when his family emigrated to Spain). He returned from Spain to do the 11-Plus and subsequently went to Hele's School in 1969, remaining up to the completion of 'O' Levels in 1974, moving to Exeter School to complete his 'A' Levels when Hele's made the transition to a Comprehensive. One of the highlights of his time in the school was in the very active C.C.F. that undoubtedly triggered his interest in the Army. During his period in the Cadets he completed Ten Tors twice (35 and 45 miles) and attended two Summer Camps in Germany - on one of them seeing the live launch of an 'Honest John' missile, one of the tactical nuclear systems then in service, now obsolete.



He was commissioned direct from school after attending the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst in April 1977 into the Devonshire and Dorset Regiment. Regimental service over 20 years in the Devon and Dorsets in Germany and the UK included four operational tours in Northern Ireland, including 18 months as a covert Surveillance Commander for which he was awarded the MBE, and a tour of Bosnia as a Company Commander in 1995 during the transition from UN to NATO operations.

Posts outside regimental duty included two years on Loan Service with the Western Frontier Regiment of the Sultan of Oman's Armed Forces - incorporating border operations against South Yemeni Forces. He attended the Army Staff College in 1990. He was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel in 1996 and moved to the MOD to work on the general staff. Subsequently he completed a tour in the Army Personnel Centre in Glasgow and was responsible for the career management for all infantry majors and junior officers.

In 1999 he was selected to command 1st Battalion The King's Regiment (recruited from Manchester and Liverpool and very different to the Devon and Dorsets!) acting as the Province Reserve Battalion for Northern Ireland. During his time in command he was involved in operations in Ireland, deployed with the Battalion to Kenya for a six week exercise and moved the Unit to Catterick and converted to the Armoured Infantry role using WARRIOR Armoured Fighting Vehicles. After command he attended the Senior Course at the NATO Defence College in Rome for six months, then moving back to Northern Ireland for yet another tour, this time in the Headquarters staff as a Senior Staff Officer. In 2004 he moved to Kosovo on promotion to Colonel at the Chief Joint Intelligence and Operations Centre, becoming Commander of the British contingent. Between 2005-2008 he served as the Commander of the Operational Training & Advisory Group (OPTAG) responsible for training all Land Forces for operations in Iraq, Afghanistan and the Balkans. During this tour he made frequent visits to Iraq and Afghanistan and the group trained over 130,000 personnel. For his work in this post he was awarded the CBE.

In 2008 he attended the Senior Strategic Staff Course for Italian Forces in Italian for a year at the Centro Alti Studi per la Difesa, as part of the preparation for his final post as Defence and Military Attache for Italy and Albania based in Rome. During three years in post he was heavily involved in the evacuation and subsequent operations in Libya and in setting up a series of major amphibious exercises by the Royal Navy in Albania, for which he was awarded the Albanian Distinguished Service Medal.

He retired after 36 years service in March 2013, having completed eight operational tours, commanding on operations at every rank from 2nd Lieutenant to Colonel.

He is married to Cally, a former pupil at St Margaret's School in Exeter, who has begun training as a teacher, and has two daughters, one in university, the other working in London. He is a keen linguist, speaking fluent Italian, decent French and understanding Spanish. Hobbies have included marathon running, sub aqua diving and hill walking. He is actively involved in the veterans associations of both his former regiments.

Ivor Brand, BA, MA (74-79)

Ivor Brand joined the C.C.F. in 1974 with his twin brother, Richard, and quickly realised the great sense of enjoyment and satisfaction that could be gained from working with others and building leadership skills. This positive relationship lasted longer than most cadets (six years) , reaching the rank of Cadet Warrant Officer in the RAF section and, like his brother, gained the Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award.



In 1980 he entered Worcester University and gained an Honours Degree and a Masters in P.E. Until recently he worked as a Head of Department in a large comprehensive school. However, two years ago he changed direction and is now gaining immense satisfaction by working with children with learning difficulties in a special school.

Over the years he has attained many sporting achievements and fondly remembers the physicality of the annual Ten Tors challenges. However, as life has moved on he has taken to more sedate sports such as golf croquet (which is a bit like pool is to snooker). He became National Champion in 1997 and 2006, and Doubles Champion in 1989 with his twin brother, Richard, and in 2007, with a different partner, he finished third in the European Championships, having finished thirteenth in the World Championships in 2000. Finally, he became Double England Champion winning both the singles and doubles titles in 2008. He has competed in the USA, South Africa and Egypt.

Ivor is married and has a grown up son and daughter.

Richard Brand, HND, PGCE (74-79)

Richard Brand joined the C.C.F. in 1974 with his twin brother, Ivor, and quickly realised that the Corps was not just discipline but a family that provided a great sense of achievement and satisfaction that could be gained from participating in team building exercises and developing leadership skills. He achieved the rank of a Flight Sergeant in the RAF section and gained the Gold D of E Award, as well as being only one of seven cadets to complete the whole distance of Offa's Dyke in seven days. In 1979 he left the area to go to Cheltenham University and qualified as a Sports Student in Leisure Management. He also gained a further teaching degree later and a diploma in Management Studies from ILAM (Leisure Management lead body).

His career for three years was as a House Tutor at Bisham Abbey National Sports Centre where he looked after the well-being and education of the LTA schoolboys in a residential setting. After this experience of dealing with the elite of sport he spent 10 years in Leisure Management, culminating in being a Centre Manager for a brand new sports centre for three years with Newbury District Council.

In between getting married and having a son he then moved back into education and spent another 10 years at a Further Education College in Harrow where he started as a PE Lecturer and became a Senior Tutor responsible for Enrichment and Progression. However, seven years ago he changed direction and is now gaining immense satisfaction by working with children who have learning disabilities in a residential college for young people with disabilities and brain acquired injuries.

Wherever he has been he has always introduced or revived the Duke of Edinburgh Award and remembers the excellent challenges and life lessons he was taught from his experiences of having the right training in discipline, with a hint of enjoyment, from the Corps. Over the years he has had many sports achievements and still fondly remembers the physicality of the annual Ten Tors challenges. Richard is currently playing veteran football and has organised six return trips to Germany where, as you can see, he still enjoys team building and even winning sometimes.

However, as life has moved on he has moved towards more sedate sports such as golf croquet.* Excellence was achieved when he became England Doubles Champion with his twin brother, Ivor, in 1999, and they were both selected to represent England in the World Championships in Egypt in 2000, finishing 23rd.

*Compiler's note: Google Golf Croquet

Ashley Brooks (73-76)

Ashley joined Hele's Grammar School in the third year in 1972, moving from Bramdean School, Heavitree and joined the Army section of the Corps.

After 'O' Levels he went on to Exeter Technical College where he stayed for one year before getting employment in administrative services with the South Western Electricity Board (requiring him to leave the Corps in 76).

In January 1978 he left SWEB and joined Devon & Cornwall Constabulary, serving for 30 years, 20 of them as a traffic patrol officer on both cars and motorcycles at several stations. He spent 14 years as an armed officer, five years of which he was one of twelve instructors at the National Firearms Training Centre at Force Headquarters, Exeter. This role involved both training officers and operational duties.

Ashley retired from the Force in January 2008 and then became a self-employed driving instructor from March 2009 to July 2013. He now works part-time in administrative services contracted back at Devon & Cornwall Police Headquarters just across from his old school.

Achievements which are most cherished are involvement with royalty and government protection whilst as a police officer, and the feeling of achievement of passing the exams to be an approved driving instructor, coupled with the satisfaction of coaching people to become safe drivers and pass their driving test.

Ashley married Sandy in 2003. No children.



Major Simon Burnett, Bsc., MBA, RM (rtd.) (74-78)

Simon studied Mathematics, Physics and Computing at the Polytechnic of Wales (now the University of South Wales). He joined the Cardiff University Officer Training Corps (UOTC) which provided the opportunity of overseas attachments to regular units, to qualify as a Unit Expedition Leader (UEL), to be a member of the first ever UOTC team to win the challenging Cambrian March Competition and in the final years of his studies, to be commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Territorial Army (TA).



After graduation Simon attended the Admiralty Interview Board (AIB) and passed for entry as an Officer in the Royal Marines. There were only two entry opportunities each year and a pass at AIB did not guarantee that a candidate would enter the Royal Marines as a Young Officer (YO). So Simon joined the Royal Marines Reserve and was awarded his green beret on completion of the commando course after only four months of training. Shortly afterwards he commenced Royal Marines Young Officer training (completing a second commando course), and, during the Short Service Commission that followed, served in 45 Commando, British Military Advisory Training Team (BMATT) Zimbabwe, Commando Training Centre, Royal Marines Deal, Royal Marines Eastney and, finally, 42 Commando.

On leaving the Royal Marines Simon established The Real Food Company with his business partner. He also re-joined the Royal Marines Reserve. An advance from a publisher to write a book and filming of a food programme for the BBC followed shortly afterwards. Before the completion of either project the end of the 80's recession saw the collapse of the publisher and a severe contraction of the BBC filming schedule; unfortunately The Real Food Company did not survive the aftershock.

Simon subsequently moved to Saudi Arabia to teach English and computer studies to members of the Royal Saudi Naval Force (RSNF) as part of the British Aerospace Al-Yamamah project. A year later he moved to Oman, this time as a computer studies instructor and was commissioned as a Lieutenant (Ra'is) in the Royal Navy of Oman (RNO). During the four years spent in Oman he studied for a Masters Degree in Business Administration (MBA), a qualification that provided the opportunity to work as a project manager on a SAP software implementation for an Omani company shortly before Simon returned to the UK. What he did not know at the time was that SAP would become one of the world's largest software companies and so define the next 15 years of his career.

On returning to the UK Simon established a limited company so he was able to provide his project management skills to companies as a contractor. In the following four years he completed SAP software implementations throughout Europe for companies such as Siemens, Tenneco Automotive and ICL.

Simon has had a fulfilling parallel career with the Royal Marines Reserve. He passed staff college, qualified as an infantry company commander, an assistant parachute jump instructor, a helicopter abseiling instructor and a military ski instructor. He spent time in Norway, Canada and Portugal, and on one occasion two months managing the joint services sub-aqua training centre located on a cay off the Belize coast. He retired as a major when the demands of his primary career did not allow the necessary commitment to the Royal Marines Reserve.

He was then recruited as a full-time employee by SAP (UK) in the role of Programme Manager and latterly Programme Director to manage software implementations for the UK subsidiary of the global SAP company. Simon subsequently managed multi-million pound software implantations for companies and organisations such as Diageo, HMRC, Forensic Science Service, The British Council and GESeaCo.

Five years later Simon re-established a limited company and returned to contract work. Employment followed in Kuwait, for Transport for London, in India for Federal-Mogul, in Edinburgh for Heineken and, finally, in Manchester for the Indian consultancy Mahindra Satyam.

The Combined Cadet Force ignited Simon's love of adventurous activities. His subsequent adventures have included climbing Mont Blanc, leading overland expeditions into the Rub'Al Khali (The Empty Quarter), diving at locations around the world as a sub-aqua diving instructor, and for the last fifteen years flying as a paramotor pilot.

Throughout his career Simon acquired a small portfolio of property which enabled him to retire shortly after turning 51 (a year later than planned). He now lives in Devon with his partner and continues his life adventures with the help of a large motor home.

NB Simon also gained his Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award during his membership.

Michael Caines, MBE (83-85)

Michael was born in Exeter in 1969 and was adopted into a family where his mother nurtured his love of cooking. He attended Hele's School and Exeter Catering College, earning him the accolade 'Student of the Year' in 1987. He subsequently spent a year and a half at the Grosvenor House Hotel, Park Lane in London, before embarking on three influential years under his mentor Raymond Blanc at Le Manoir aux Quat' Saisons in Oxfordshire, before moving to France to learn under Bernard Loiseau in Saulieu and Joel Robuchon in Paris.



He became the Head Chef at Gidleigh Park in 1994, but he lost his full right arm in a car accident soon afterwards. In 1999 Gidleigh Park was awarded a second Michelin Star, and in 2001 he won Chef of the Year at the Catey Awards.

Michael Caines Restaurants Ltd. was founded in 1999, and the Michael Caines Restaurant opened at the Bristol Marriott Royal in July 2003. However, a meeting with Andrew Brownsword in early 2000 resulted in a partnership and the purchase of the Royal Clarence, Exeter in October 2000. Together they have developed the Abode Hotel Concept.

Currently there are six hotels in the Abode Group: Exeter, Canterbury, Glasgow, Manchester, Chester and Salisbury. Caines is also Executive Chef for Bath Priory Limited, which own both Bath Priory Hotel and Gidleigh Park Hotel. Within Abode Hotels exists Michael Caines Restaurants, as well as Michael Caines Taverns, Bars and Grills. His role within the Abode franchise (aside co-founder) is Director of Food & Beverage.

In 2006 Michael and John Burton Race represented the South West of England in the BBC television series Great British Menu. He beat the Dartmouth-based chef to go on to the final round.

He was created a Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE) on 17th June 2006.

Michael lives near Exeter in mid-Devon with his partner Zoe Szypillo and their daughter, India. He also has a son, Joseph, and daughter, Hope, from his previous relationship.

As an adopted child himself, he supports a number of local agencies, as well as amputee initiatives and charities. Michael is Patron of Families for Children Adoption Agency: www.familiesforchildren.org.uk, a voluntary adoption agency covering Cornwall, Devon and Dorset.

Michael was recently awarded the "Exeter Power 50 City's Most Influential Award", to celebrate "the outstanding contribution made by an individual to the businesses and communities of Exeter and its surrounding area".

He was praised for his efforts in supporting tourism, leisure, business, education and charity through his city centre hotel, restaurant and café bar; his training academy with Exeter College; the Exeter Festival of South West Food and Drink and his involvement with charities such as the Exeter Foundation, Families for Children and international cancer charity 'One for the Boys'.

Not only that, Caines now travels worldwide as a partner with the Formula One Williams team, whilst Gidleigh Park has recently been named as the number one best restaurant in the Sunday Times Top 100 UK restaurants.

Wikipedia and Exeter Chiefs Programme.

Mark Collacott, BA(Hons) (91-95)

After leaving the Corp Mark went to the University of Brighton from 1995-1999 graduating with a BA(Hons) in Computing and Information Systems. This included a year's placement in industry where he worked for a global company based in Buckinghamshire, implementing a manufacturing and distribution system across Europe.

The first thing Mark did on arriving at university was to visit the local Territorial Army Unit and sign up. Throughout his university years he was a very active soldier with the Princess of Wales Royal Regiment (PWRR), the most senior Infantry Regiment in the British Army.



On finishing university Mark moved back to Exeter briefly and continued in the TA with 4 D&D at Wyvern Barracks. He served a year full-time before moving to Portsmouth, after being offered a new job. Mark had served for six years in the TA.

From 2000 to 2004 Mark worked as a technical consultant in the mobile telecoms industry travelling around Europe and further afield.

However, he could not ignore the public sector calling any further and decided to following his father's footsteps by applying for the police service. Missing the south-west he opted for the Devon & Cornwall Police. On being successful in his application he first went travelling for several months before commencing his training in May 2004.

After five years working as a Response Officer in Exeter, Mark specialised and is trusted as an Armed Response Officer. He is also a Roads Policing Specialist and amongst many accolades is qualified as a Police Advance Driver.

Mark has continued to shoot full-bore target rifle as a hobby and has represented a very successful Devon & Cornwall Police Team and the UK Police in national and international competitions.

He is now aiming for promotion and studying for his sergeant's exam in early 2014.

NB Mark gained his Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award during his membership.

Paul Collacott (89-93)

Paul is currently serving in the Royal Marines as an air-crewman based at RNAS, Yeovilton.

Compiler's Note: Paul is a Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award holder.

Paul Diamond (72-74)

Paul has held a number of very senior management positions at director level at KPMG, Serco, irnpower and Liberata. His principle areas of expertise are risk management, programme management, revenues and benefits, customer services, ICT and property. In fact during his time at KPMG the company was nominated as “Employer of the Year”.



He is married, and during his spare time plays rhythm guitar and composes songs for a band called “The Stoats”. They perform at charity gigs and recently raised £2.5k for the Alzheimers Society and £3k for a children’s ward at a local hospital.

His other major interest is mountain and off-road biking, generally again for charity. He recently completed the London to Brighton Ride.

Compiler’s Note: A very interesting, busy and productive life.

Zach Dorman (05-09)

Zach recently graduated with a degree in Maths and works for a pharmaceutical company in Reading.

Compiler's Note: Zach was a member of the last Corps' Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award winning group.

Flt/Lt. David Forey (80-82, 94-date)

David joined RAMC as an apprentice on leaving school. He qualified as a combat medical technician and served in a field hospital in Germany for two years.

On leaving the Service he trained to become an operative theatre technician, followed by a three year RGN course at Musgrove Park Hospital, Taunton. He worked in several local hospitals, was appointed to the medical team at Channings Wood Prison and later to the NHS Direct Service.



He is currently part way through a degree course at Plymouth University in Health Visiting.

He was commissioned into the RAF section in June 1999, following five years as a C.I (A.U.O.) in the Contingent. He served as a Flt/Lt. O.C. RAF section, but latterly stepped down due to work commitments.

David is married and has two sports-mad sons.

He is also a Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award holder.

Capt. Jonathan Forey (83-87, 91-date)

Jonathan served in the Contingent for eight years as a C.I (A.U.O.) and was commissioned into the Army section in June 1999. He was appointed O.C. Army section and has remained in post to this day, i.e. 15 years.

Jon worked in various occupations including transport manager for a national laundry and dry cleaning company. He then branched out on his own, fitting double glazing and building conservatories which developed into further aspects of property development.

Jonathan is married and has two sons.

He is also a Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award holder.



Martin Gates (80-83)

Martin has been married to Tracy for 20 years, and moved to a village within the Wye Valley (AONB) near Chepstow just over three years ago. He has worked for NatWest for 30 years. He holds a degree equivalent qualification as an ACIB (Associate of the Chartered Institute of Bankers) and has undertaken a range of managerial roles, at one point managing a team of c.70 staff. He has also attained qualifications in diet and fitness, computing and garden design along the way.



Martin has been a National Trust volunteer park ranger at Dyrham Park near Bath for 10 years and undertook a six month career break in 2008 to work with the NT outdoor team at Erddig near Wrexham. This included helping construct a huge horse riding menage (mostly by hand) and helping to plan and stage the first ever Welsh National Horse Driving Trials.

Philip Greedy (90-94)

Phil is currently Investigations Manager with Vodaphone.

Compiler's Note: Phil is a Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award holder.

Major (rtd.) Ian Griffiths, RA (73-77)

Following a very successful career in the Contingent, Ian, known to everyone as “Big Griff” entered RMA Sandhurst and was commissioned in the Royal Artillery in 1978. He served in various artillery regiments in the UK, Germany and Iraq, being variously Battery Commander and Captain Adjutant. He also served as a Gunnery Instructor and later Chief Instructor at the School of Artillery, Larkhill.

In the first Gulf War he held the post of Brigade Gunnery Officer and wrote the plan for the Brigade break into Iraq.

Now retired, he keeps himself busy with some computer consultancy work.

He is married with a grown-up daughter. Currently resident in France.

Lt. Ryan Goldsmith (95-01, 11-date)

Following a successful career as a cadet member, during which time he gained the Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award, Ryan was commissioned in the Army section in 2011.

He has been a member of Dartmoor Search and Rescue for 13 years, with two years as Treasurer, and received the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal for 10 years service. Ryan recently became a British Mountaineering Association qualified mountain leader.

He holds qualifications in management and land registry, and is Business Development Manager for Heavitree Brewery, overseeing more than 30 properties in the local area.

Leanne Hall (05-09)

Leanne recently graduated with a BSc in Maths and is currently studying for an MSc in Medical Statistics.

Compiler's Note: Leanne was a member of the last Corps' Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award winning group.

Geoffrey (Mini) Hartnell (67-71)

Geoff left the Contingent in 1971, having won the Air Officer Commanding's commendation for good service, and holding the rank of Cadet Warrant Officer in the RAF section and Contingent Senior Cadet.

He gained teaching qualifications at Hereford College of Education (1972-75) and taught at a comprehensive school in the West Midlands from 1975-78. He then progressed into youth work with posts in London, Reading and St. James' Community Centre, Exeter from 1991-93. Geoff then moved back to London and eventually became Youth Development Adviser for Havering Council 2007-2012.



He was a member of the UK Delegation of Youth Workers to Japan in 2003 and led a party on a visit to Shanghai Youth Federation in 2007.

He is a facilitator of 'Havering Project - You', and Chairman of Haveringham Venture, a charity that runs holiday activities programmes for disadvantaged and disaffected young people.

He took early retirement in 2012.

His hobbies and interests centre on Military history, especially the English Civil War, and Naval history.

Member of the Sealed Knot, Rank: Major. Appointments held: Master of Apprentices (a 17th century Cadet Corps) 1992-2002; re-appointed Master of Apprentices 2013; Member of the Board of Directors 1994-1999; Member of the Sealed Knot Education Team 2012 to date.

Capt. (rtd.) David Hayward, CStJ (64-67, 71-85)

David was a pupil at the school in the 1960's. He served in the C.C.F. and attained senior rank. He became the first member of the Corps to gain the Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award.

David was 'head hunted' to the school and commissioned into the Army section in 1971. He was appointed O.C. Army section in 1973 and served in the Contingent until 1985. He was forced to take a premature retirement due to ill-health in the late 1990's.

Much of the credit for the success of this Contingent was undoubtedly down to David's enthusiasm and commitment. Among his many achievements were as Manager of our Ten Tors teams, the continuous weekend exercise and many more. He was appointed one of only four Year Heads and not unsurprisingly was given the nicknames of "Action Man" or "Big D". During his service he was awarded the Lord Lieutenant's Certificate for Voluntary Service to Youth and the Cadet Forces Medal.

David was also a life-long member of the Devon St. John Ambulance Brigade in which he served as a cadet, rising to County Commander. He not only received many commendations for his actions, but just prior to retirement was created a Commander of the Order of St. John (the equivalent of a CBE).



Alexander Hortop (89-95)

Alex was commissioned in the Parachute Regiment in 2001 and is currently undertaking a two-year study course in the USA.

Compiler's Note: Alex is a Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award holder and a former Army VI form scholar.

Major (rtd.) Richard Howard, RM (87-92)

Rich Howard served as a member of St. Peter's High School C.C.F. from 1987-1992. Whilst serving he achieved Bronze, Silver and Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Awards, led Ten Tors 35, 45 and 55 mile routes and enjoyed the annual Adventurous Training Camps in wet and windy parts of the UK

Post St. Peters and Exeter College, Rich undertook a B.Ed.(Hons) in Outdoor Education at Liverpool. This allowed him to further develop his passion for the outdoors which had been first nurtured as a member of the Contingent. During this period Rich undertook climbing and kayaking expeditions to the French Alps and Nepal as well as qualifying as a leader in a range of outdoor environments.



Rich was commissioned into the Royal Marines in May 1998 and served in a range of appointments across the Corps, including operational deployments in Northern Ireland, Sierra Leone, Iraq and Afghanistan. He also undertook mountain and arctic warfare training in Norway and attended the Junior Command and Staff Course.

Rich's subsequent appointments were in Washington D.C. as the Assistant Royal Marine Attache before finally returning to the Commando Training Centre in Devon in Command of a Recruit Training Company. During this period he collaborated on the use of adventure training programmes to assist in the rehabilitation of injured Royal Marines.

On retiring from the Royal Marines Rich continued developing the above philosophy into a company called Adventure Rehab. Most recently he has taken on the role of Outdoor Adventure Programme Leader at Exeter College, based at the new purpose-built Outdoor Education Centre at Haven Banks. In this role he has come full circle and can now be found enjoying rivers and mountains leading the next generation.

Rich is married with three young children, and is interested in setting up a support group to raise money for the Contingent.

Vanessa (Ness) Howard (90-94)

Ness is a qualified teacher and works in a school in Oxford.

She is married with a one-year-old son.

Compiler's Note: Ness is a Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award holder.

Matthew (Mat) Ison 84-88

Mat was commissioned in the Army Air Corps and is currently deployed on Operation Herrick in Afghanistan.

Compiler's Note: Mat is a Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award holder.

Lieutenant Colonel Anna-Lee Johnston (nee Shorters),
BSc., MSc., MA, CENG,MIET, MCM (89-93)

Lieutenant Colonel Anna-Lee Johnston was commissioned into the Corps of Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers in 1997. As a Junior Officer she served in the armoured role in both the United Kingdom and Germany, deploying to Bosnia and Kosovo. Her Light Aid Detachment command tour was with the Household Cavalry Regiment in Windsor.



As a Major she was posted to the Defence Academy, completing the Design of Information Systems Master of Science and the Intermediate Command and Staff College (Land). Her initial staff appointment was in London in the Directorate of Special Forces, and in 2008 she took command of 9 Armoured Company, 4 Close Support Battalion REME, deploying the Company to BATUS, Cyprus and then to Iraq and Kuwait on Operation BROCKDALE. Thereafter she spent a year working in Army Headquarters where she gained Chartered Engineer status, before promotion to Lieutenant Colonel.

Lieutenant Colonel Johnston completed the Advanced Command and Staff Course and the King's College Defence Studies Master of Arts in 2012, before taking up post as the Military Assistant to the Chief of Materiel (Land) and the Quartermaster General. She assumed command of 4 Armoured Close Support Battalion REME in January 2014.

She lives with her partner, Adrian, and they spend their time split between Pewsey and Inverness. She plays Army basketball and enjoys squash, diving and skiing.

Compiler's Note: Anna-Lee is a Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award holder and is the first woman to command a REME Battalion.

Christopher (Chris) Kay (91-95)

Chris is Managing Director of SW Glass and Glazing Ltd. He has branches in Exeter and Falmouth, the latter managed by his sister, Heather. They are hoping to swap locations in the not too distant future.

Chris lives in Tiverton with his partner and two young children.



Compiler's Note: Chris is a Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award holder.

Heather Kay (95-98)

Heather moved to France and obtained the Scientific International Baccalaureate in 2001. Following a number of temporary jobs she moved to the Alps region and in Winter worked in the ski industry. Heather also adopted competitive skiing and won the “Derby de la Meije” telemark ski category. In Summer she worked in an adventure park which gave her time to pursue her other passion - BMX racing. In 2013 she finished third in the Elite Ladies British National Championships Mountain Biking and third in the European Series race. In the same year she finished fifth in the Non-Elite Ladies British National Downhill Race.

In 2014 she was selected to represent Great Britain at the 4X World Championships in Leogang, Austria. She also competed in the 4X Pro Tour, winning the event in Bulgaria and finishing second in the Czech Republic.

Heather moved back to the UK two years ago and is now working in partnership with her brother, Chris, managing the Cornwall branch of SW Glass and Glazing Ltd.



Lieutenant Commander Kevin King, MNI, MInstAM (74-78)

On leaving the Corps Kevin was awarded an RAF cadet scholarship to Canada and promptly decided to join the Navy instead as, at age 19, 'seeing the world, driving ships and flying' seemed like a more fun option.

Kevin passed out from Britannia Royal Naval College in April 1980. HM the Queen conducted the inspection, mainly because her son, Andrew, was passing out at the same time. Kevin then completed his Seaman Officer training and joined his first complement ship, HMS ALACRITY, as an Officer of the Watch in 1981.



By this time he had already seen much of the Mediterranean, North Atlantic coast and Canada, but in April 1982 was turned South to help recover the Falklands. The battles are well documented, but suffice to say that his frigate made a very cheap minesweeper whilst also engaging in amphibious landing SF incursions and successfully conducting the only surface engagement of the campaign, destroying an Argentinian fuel supply vessel at night in the confines of Falkland Sound.

Flying training followed, son Daniel arrived in 1983, and then two front line flying tours, including a round the world trip with three months in Australia. This was such a great place that he returned (more than once, and now lives there).

After flying instructor jobs and staff work at HQ Northwood and JHQ Wilton, during the Bosnian campaign, he retired from the RN in 1996 in the rank of Lieutenant Commander to work on the new Merlin helicopter at Westland Helicopters for a few years. Eventually tiring of the Defence-related industry he then spent two years as a steeplejack whilst pondering his next life move. Being quite good at driving ships he did a Merchant Navy conversion course and joined the Royal Fleet Auxiliary in 2002. During this time he met his wife, Carolyn, and spent much time around the Caribbean and the Middle and Far East navigating a variety of vessels from tankers to aviation support vessels.

The pull of the Antipodes was great and so they returned to Australia where he worked full-time as a Naval Lieutenant Reserve Aviation Warfare Officer at the Australian Fleet Air Arm HQ at Nowra, about 100 miles south of Sydney. Subsequently, Kevin has been accepted back into the full time Navy, and as Operations Officer for the Australian Navy's largest helicopter squadron, with sixteen aircraft and two-hundred and fifty personnel. The Honda VFR800i is the commuter vehicle of choice.

This year (2013) he was also honoured to have been part of the Royal Australian Navy's Centenary celebrations taking part in another passion, navigating the UK Jubilee Sailing Trust Tall Ship, STS LORD NELSON, from Hobart, Tasmania to Sydney.

“Yes, Australians walk around upside down, the water goes down the plughole the other way and the sun goes through North before setting in the West, not to mention poisonous beasts, spiders and jellyfish, but this is our home and we love it. Thankfully we have Skype video calls to make separation from family and UK friends less onerous. Anyone who makes the effort to get here will be assured of a warm Aussie welcome.”

In his spare-time Kevin is a Master Coxswain for Marine Rescue NSW (like the RNLI), fishes randomly from a kayak, loves the beach life and camping in the bush.

Compiler's Note: Kevin also gained his Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award during his membership.

Acting Inspector Craig Kirk (81-85)

On leaving Exeter College Craig joined the NatWest Bank in Exeter for three years. In 1988 he joined the Avon & Somerset Constabulary, initially based in Bristol in inner city areas of deprivation. In 2003 he moved on to Custody and Traffic in the rank of Sergeant. He was later promoted Acting Inspector responsible for major events operational planning such as the Glastonbury Festival, riots and badger cull protests.

Craig is proud of his service and can look back over a varied career with lots of exciting, and some violent, events and many rewarding experiences.



Craig is married, has two children, and is hoping that they take the opportunity to participate in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award when they are old enough.

Compiler's Note: Craig is a Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award holder.

Ian MaCMartin (83-87)

Ian is currently a Technical Manager with Taylor Wimpey and has a son serving in the Army.

Compiler's Note: Ian is a Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award holder.

Alice McGurran (05-09)

Alice is set to graduate in July with an MA in English Literature and French from the University of Edinburgh. She spent her third year at Montpellier in the South of France and served for a year and a half in the University O.T.C. Alice hopes to pursue a career in editing and publishing, and will shortly begin a work placement before moving to London in July.

Compiler's Note: Alice was a member of the last Corps' Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award winning group.

Bethan Mulcock (05-09)

Bethan is in her final year at university studying medicine.

Compiler's Note: Bethan was a member of the last Corps' Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award winning group.

Colonel Martin Oakes, CEng., MSc., BSc., FIMechE, FRGS, MCIPD (late REME) (76-78)

Having commissioned in 1981, Colonel Martin Oakes has certainly not followed a 'normal' Corps career path, indeed he is unusual in that he has never served in a REME Battalion but has nevertheless sought a varied and interesting career path typified by adventure and adrenaline.

'P' Company para trained in his early career, he has also qualified as a Special Forces high altitude parachutist (having HALO'd from heights in excess of 25,000 feet) and is also an Arctic Warfare Instructor (having deployed above the Arctic Circle in Norway for three winter instructional seasons) as well as such delights as being a Helicopter Abseil Instructor.



He has commanded units at every rank from Captain (O.C. of 7 Para RHA Workshop) to Colonel (Commander Equipment Support in the 1st (UK) Armoured Division) via O.C. AMF(L) Workshop, C.O. Joint Air Transport Evaluation Unit (JATEU) and Commandant of the REME Arms School.

Early postings included patrolling the streets of North Belfast during the troubled early 80s, collecting foreign forces parachute qualifications as Operations/Training Officer in 10 Airborne Workshop and on a small specialist training team on loan service in Uganda.

It was as a Sandhurst Platoon Commander in Rowallan Company (now the Sandhurst Development Company) that he will be remembered with glee/trepidation by the Officer Cadets who got to enjoy his early morning 'mean machine' PT periods and endurance initiative tests over the Brecon Beacons.

A graduate of the Royal Navy & Royal Marines Senior Staff Course at Greenwich in staff appointments, he has worked in the Operational Requirements area of the MOD and has most recently been the leader of the Operations and Military Capability team in the Weapons Operating Centre of the DE&S in Bristol, supporting both the Libyan and Syrian operations.

At the height of the Baghdad violence of 2006 he was the Chief of Staff (COS) to Generals Rob Fry and Graham Lamb when they were the 3* Senior British Military Representatives in Iraq, briefing the British Ambassador daily on UK and SF operations and was instrumental in co-ordinating delicate negotiations between the coalition 3 and 4* and some highly unsavoury, not to say rather dangerous, Iraqi Sunni insurgent leaders. On other operations, it was an extended tour in Sierra Leone on Op SILKMAN and then subsequently staying on to join the International Training Team that means, alas, he now has cerebral malaria to show for his 22 months there!

Fuelled by adventurous enthusiasm, Martin's love of adrenaline has continued throughout his military career. He has qualified as a Joint Service Mountaineering and Rock Climbing Instructor, an Army Canoe Instructor, a Scuba Dive Leader and as the Chairman of the REME freefall parachute team he has led expeditions worldwide. From ice climbing in the South American Andes, kayaking grade 5 rapids in the Canadian Rockies to accelerated freefall parachuting in California and Scuba diving off the Virgin Islands and Sardinia, he has continually sought to challenge numerous soldiers to push their physical and mental limits through the extremes of adventure training.

For one very spectacular year when he was both a lead climber on the Combined Services Himalayan Expedition to Ama Dablam in the Everest region of Nepal and also 'bagged' a first ascent of a 20,000ft mountain in the Kindu Hush Karakoram of Northern Pakistan, he was elected to be a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society.

As a Chartered Engineer and Fellow of IMechE in his 'spare' time he is widely known as a very 'hands-on' practical engineer. Stocking the garages of his military quarters with lathes and milling machines, rumour is that he once rebuilt a motorbike in the dining room of an Arborfield military quarter. He has over the years represented the Corps as a rally driver in the 4x4 off-road series of races, has competed in enduro motorcycling events and has been on several overland overseas expeditions, having only recently returned from co-driving an expedition modified land rover in the Sahara Desert. He departed the Regular Service after 32 years to continue building and modifying motorbikes in his own gloriously well-equipped Somerset workshop and to fill his spare time he has transferred to the Active Reserve.

Michael (Mike) Passmore (51-56)

Mike attended Hele's School from 1949-1956.

He joined the Basic section of the Combined Cadet Force in 1951 and passed Certificate A Part I in March 1952. He then transferred to the RAF section where he gained Part I Proficiency in March 1953 and Part II Advanced in March 1954 and progressed through the promotion ladder to become Contingent Warrant Officer in December 1955.

Mike was awarded the John Blackmore Prize for the C.C.F. (Air section) in July 1955 and recalls the most memorable event of his C.C.F. membership as a flight in a Sunderland Flying Boat from RAF Mount Batten in August 1955.

On leaving the school sixth form Mike joined the Royal Air Force for National Service, following which he was an Editorial Manager with a national education publisher and then an Assistant Education Officer in local government.

Now retired, Mike researches twentieth-century military and civil defence archaeology in Devon on which he - jointly with his son (a professional archaeologist) - has produced a book, booklets, pamphlets and press and magazine articles. He occasionally lectures on the topic.

He is a life member of the RAF Association and currently (2013) editor of the newsletter of the SW Group of the National Service (RAF) Association.

One achievement of which Mike is particularly pleased is his successful request to the Ministry of Defence and to Exeter City Council that the RAF should be granted the Freedom of Exeter in recognition of its significant presence in Devon over the years. This was granted to RAF Brize Norton in October 2013.

Major Malcolm Parsons, TA (rtd.) (71-74)

From leaving the C.C.F. in 74 (having joined three years earlier), I went on to join the Post Office.

Having been Captain of Shooting, a role I thoroughly enjoyed, I was keen to continue my shooting and joined the small-bore rifle team which the Post Office then had. Having already purchased my Martini action BSA small-bore rifle whilst at Hele's I then graduated to an Anschutz bolt action rifle and in 1975 I won the Devon Junior Small-bore Championship at Okehampton Ranges. Later that same year I went on to win the South West Junior Championship (nine counties including the Channel Isles) and came second in the Somerset Junior Championship, having entered with an 'average' score of 98.1 (out of 100).



In 1977 I joined the Royal Naval Reserve and attended the Communications Training Centre then situated in Sidwell Street. Not that I had a great desire to become a sailor but that they had a rifle team so, again, Her Majesty was paying for the ammunition. Having gone to sea a few times on minesweepers and on one occasion in a three day force 10 gale on a fishery protection exercise, I decided that life on the ocean wave was not for me.

It was at this stage I decided to go back to what I knew from being in the Army section of the C.C.F. and joined the TA. I looked around for what appeared to be the unit with the most diverse activity and settled on the Royal Pioneer Corps based out of Simpson Barracks in Northampton (sadly no longer standing but now a housing estate).

Having joined as a private soldier, I did my basic training and came out as Best Recruit and Best Shot on the course. At the passing out parade I was duty corporal and the inspecting officer walked straight past me assuming that I was a regular soldier organising the training!

Within six months it was suggested that I go for a commission so applied and was duly sent to Bassingbourne in Cambridgeshire where I passed the assessment and then after further preparation found myself at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst where I passed out in July of 1986. One of the proudest days of my life, memories of the C.C.F. popped into my mind on more than one occasion.

I went on to take command of my own Squadron in 1997: 103 Pioneer Squadron. The Squadron was created out of the highest achievers of two other squadrons in order to raise the standards of the Pioneer TA and we then went on to do more frequent training than the other specialist units which were obliged to commit to only 19 days training a year.

Later we were amalgamated into the Royal Logistic Corps (affectionately referred to as the 'Really Large Corps') which comprised of many other disciplines.

The Pioneer Regiment, as we had then become, was exclusively a male domain and this did not fit with current thinking, so the first ever female Pioneer Officer, who was to go on to become my partner, joined us - Major Fran Armstrong.

My career with Royal Mail was successful in parallel with the previous comments and, upon the advent of computers in business in 1990, I joined an exclusive team that travelled the country

updating the Post Office's main address database.

This took me all over the country which was very exciting. My technical 'bent' led me onto more and more leading edge projects with Royal Mail at one stage presenting to the nine Regional Directors at Coton House Management Training Centre near Rugby and being involved with Geographic Information Systems (maps on computers) in close liaison with the Ordnance Survey Headquarters at Maybush in Southampton. Again, from the skills I'd learned with the C.C.F., I was able to liaise effectively with my knowledge of maps, etc.

In 1998 I decided that I wanted to have some more adventure and I volunteered for a six month tour of Bosnia. I was granted leave from Royal Mail and within weeks was appointed as a watch keeper in the British Headquarters in Banja Luks, Bosnia-Herzegovina (as it became).

Things were pretty full on, being one of only three watch keepers in the HQ. I then pulled my skills together and had the idea of creating a database of all the village names (often extremely difficult to spell) from all the reports that came in. This turned out to be an extremely useful resource and on one occasion, when the General wanted to know the location of a bombing incident, I was able to assist the General's O Group by informing them of the location and indicating on the map where it was.

On one night when I was the senior officer in the Ops room, I was able to save the lives of 42 DPRE's (displaced persons and refugees) who, upon their return to their old village of Gacice, had been threatened with their lives by the locals, ethnic tensions still being high. I hadn't time to get the Chief of Ops out of bed so dealt with the incident myself.

I resolved the situation by deployment of the QRF (Quick Reaction Force) 12 RGJ and helicopters with 'Nightsun' lighting fitted (to intimidate the aggressive side of the villagers). At one stage I had an SAS Regiment Captain asking me on advice as to what to do! Having stabilised the situation I then organised for the Chief of Police and the Mayor of Gacice to meet with the villagers to settle their differences. I then went to bed as it was dawn. I got a big slap on the back from the Chief of Ops the next evening after being told that the General had mentioned me in the Conference call back to Sarajevo (a 'mentioned in dispatches' modern day style).

On my return to the UK and Royal Mail I was able to be utilised on some major league projects but cuts were coming and, having the perspective of what I'd seen in Bosnia, decided that I wanted to consolidate what I had and having spent the last 12 years on the road, sold up and moved back to the West Country from the Midlands. After just under 30 years of service I took redundancy (along with 30,000 other managers) and moved from the Midlands, where I'd moved to on promotion, back to the West Country, Wiltshire in fact, to live with my partner.

I briefly worked in IT for Wiltshire Constabulary but still hankered for the green uniform again so left and applied for FTRS (Full-time Reserve Service) and managed to get a two year post ideally designed for me, working out of the Land Warfare Centre, Warminster. At the rank of Major I was in charge of two civilians and a contractor and we implemented the AKX (Army Knowledge Exchange) designed to accrue the collective output of the School of Infantry and make it available on line for troops to access as far as the 'frontline' in Afghanistan. After two years the AKX had been successfully established and my two year stint was up.

I then started a small print and computer business in our village which has grown exponentially in the three years it has been running and the largest growing part of it now is the IT side. I'm currently supporting nearly 150 PCs remotely all over the world. The countries include France,

Germany, Cyprus, Turkey, South Africa and, of course, the UK.
I also support an Olympic Silver Medallist whose back office require my services.

Turnover has nearly quadrupled in the three years that we have been trading.

Finally, I am a Trustee of a Reading charity aiding young children (and no so young) to learn to read.

Sadly I am about to become Major (retired).

Captain Stephen Patch (83-87-date)

Following a very successful cadet career, in which he rose to Cadet Under Officer in the Army section, Steve was invited in 1987 to become its first civilian instructor (Adult Under Officer) in the Contingent's history. The fact that this system was perpetuated was due to the dignified and responsible attitude he displayed to this appointment; so much so that in 1999 he was commissioned and is still serving today.

He also holds the Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award.

Steve is the Group Underwriting Manager for Lloyd & Whyte Ltd., and is married with two daughters.



Nicholas (Nick) Potbury (83-87)

Nick is currently Operations Manager at Sandy Park - Exeter Chiefs Rugby Club.

Compiler's Note: Nick is a Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award holder.

Scott Ranft (80-84)

Scott served in the Royal Marines and took part in the operation to recapture the Falkland Islands.

He is now an Air Observer with the Devon & Cornwall Police and is the reserve coxswain of the Exmouth Lifeboat.

Compiler's Note: Scott is a Duke of Edinburgh's Golf Award holder.

Rosalie Robinson (nee Ranft (85-87))

Rosalie is currently secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Devon at County Hall, Exeter.

Compiler's Note: Rosalie is a Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award holder.

Lieutenant-General Sir Andrew Ridgway, KBE, CB (64-68)

Lieutenant-General Sir Andrew Peter Ridgway was educated at Hele's School, Exeter, the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst and St. John's College, Cambridge.

In 1970 he was commissioned into the 3rd Royal Tank Regiment, serving in Germany and Ireland as a Troop Leader. In 1975 he qualified as a helicopter pilot and was given command of the 1st Royal Tank Regiment Air Squadron, operating in Central America and Northern Ireland. In 1982 he attended the Army Staff College at Camberley, before taking command of the 3rd Royal Tank Regiment in 1991 and the 7th Armoured Brigade (the 'Desert Rats') in 1993. In 1994 he was appointed UN Commander in Central Bosnia and Herzegovina, and became Chief of Staff for the Allied Rapid Reaction Corps for NATO's entry into the Kosovo War in 1999.



From 2003 to 2006 he was Chief of Defence Intelligence, although he was not directly involved in producing the controversial intelligence reports that led to the 2003 invasion of Iraq and Operation Telic. He is also Colonel of the Royal Tank Regiment (appointed in 1999), Honorary Colonel of Cambridge University Officer Training Corps and the Westminster Dragoons.

Other jobs in his career have included running the Army budget as Colonel Army Programmes and posts as First Director of Operational Capability, First Director of Training and Education and Chief of Joint Force Operations.

He was appointed CBE in 1995 and CB in 2001, as well as receiving the Queen's Commendation for Valuable Service and the US Defense Intelligence Agency Award in 2005. Andrew was appointed a Knight Commander of the Order of the British Empire (KBE) in the Queen's Birthday Honours in 2011.

From 2006 until 2011 Andrew was Lieutenant-Governor of Jersey in the Channel Islands, where he acted as the Queen's representative. Though largely a symbolic and ceremonial appointment, the post of Lieutenant-Governor is the essential link between Jersey and the Crown, as the Channel Islands are not part of the United Kingdom.

Wikipedia entry

Natalie Roberts (nee Shorland) (87-92)

Following my A levels I took a year out, and was lucky enough to be invited to stay on in the Corps, as an Adult Under Officer (C.I.). This gave me the opportunity to experience a new side of the Contingent, with lots of training, exercises and a trip to Germany.

I decided to follow my love of sport, and accepted a place at Loughborough University to read Sports Science. Whilst studying at Loughborough, I joined the University Air Squadron, learnt to fly, and experience everything the RAF had to offer. I was fortunate to experience a number of fantastic attachments, where I learnt to fly Hawks at RAF Chivenor, and Wessex at RAF Benson.



I graduated from Loughborough, with a 2:1, and decided that a full-time RAF career was not for me. Not sure of what to do next, I was offered a sponsorship to do a Masters Degree which involved studying in Belgium, the Netherlands, and Spain. I had a great year, and graduated with an MA in 1996.

Like most graduates I headed for the ‘big smoke’ to see where life would take me. My Sports Science qualifications opened the door to a role at the English Sports Council. I worked in the role for three years, where I had responsibility for the 5 National Sports Centres. This was an exciting role, and the chance to rub shoulders with many of our national football, rugby, and tennis stars.

After three years in the public sector I thought it time to get a real job. I was offered a role in a niche property and facilities management firm. I joined in 1999, and for the next four years worked for a number of clients including British Airways, Cisco and Diago, in locations in the UK and around the world. I was then offered a role with the American parent company, in Dallas, Texas, and spent a year before returning to the UK.

On returning to the UK, I met my future husband, Marc, and we decided to move to Yorkshire, where he is from. I relocated my role, working for a Law Firm, in Leeds, and spent time enjoying everything Yorkshire had to offer. Lots of walking and a chance to do more running.

Marc and I were married in December 2006, and in 2008 our daughter Harriet was born. I went back to work for a while, until our second daughter Annabel was born in 2010. Since then I have worked on and off as a freelance consultant, but like to spend as much time at home as possible. There is always so much to do with small people! We have 40 Herdwick sheep, which keeps us busy playing at being farmers.

I am still running as much as possible and completed my first marathon last year aged 40, in memory of my Dad, John, who died in October 2012. This raised money for Hospiscare in Exeter. I’m not sure if I will attempt another marathon.

Compilers note: Natalie was the first young woman to be appointed Contingent Senior Cadet, and is also a Duke of Edinburgh’s Gold Award holder.

Stephen (Steve) Slade, BSc.(Hons.) 70-74

I was awarded a Royal Navy Flying Scholarship in 1973 whilst in the school CCF (Army Section – there's a mix!) and it changed my life forever. From then on, I knew that flying had to be a part of my life. I applied for, and was accepted, to train as a Commercial Pilot on the last ever course for British Airways at the College of Air Training at Hamble. However, plans had to change somewhat after a spinal injury led to a four and a half month stay in Stoke Mandeville Hospital and a change of career path was called for.



Southampton University was my home for three years, reading Aeronautics and Astronautics; you can tell that the flying bug was now well and truly caught. As a final year project, I worked on developing a hand-control that would enable me to fly a Piper Cherokee and this was great to combine marks towards a degree with a practical solution to enable me to get airborne again.

After University, I joined Rolls-Royce on their graduate training scheme and met an Engineer with a shared interest in light aircraft. Around this time microlight aircraft (as they became known) started to appear on the scene and we bought a kit for one of the first single-seat weight-shift machines to come onto the market. This was an answer to a prayer as it enabled me to get back into the air at minimal cost compared to conventional light aircraft flying.

Flying progressed from a single seat aircraft which cruised at 28mph to a two-seater with an enhanced 40mph cruise speed. You had to really choose flying days carefully and a fifty mile cross-country was a real adventure. I remember flying into an event and someone asking me why I had bungees around my feet to which I had to reply “to stop them from falling off” ☺

After eight years in the Development Department at Rolls-Royce, I moved into Planning and Resourcing in the newly formed Design engineering organisation and this coincided with the start, as part of a small team of three, of building the prototype MW6, one of the first practical two-seat 3-axis microlight aircraft.

This aircraft was a massive leap forward in terms of performance, and we used it to literally spread our wings and fly much further distances. We entered and successfully competed in a number of Round Britain Rallies, flew from Lands End to John O’Groats in a day, and participated in an International Microlight Rally in the Ukraine when it was still part of the Soviet Union.

Work-wise at this time I spent five years as Business Manager on the Main Development Contract for the EJ200 engine for the Typhoon aircraft, followed by a three year secondment to the MOD on the Typhoon IPT Programme Management team.

A Rans S6 microlight aircraft followed the MW6 and I started competing in the UK National Championships held that year at Little Rissington in the United Kingdom. I finished fourth, just missing out on a medal. This particular Rans was slightly under-powered (2-stroke engine) so it was not going to be feasible to fly 2-up in the Round Britain Rally. I entered solo more for a challenge than anything else but ended up winning the event, something that I had never really imagined would have been possible and still, to this day, is one of my proudest achievements. The 1st World Air Games in Turkey in 1997 was a memorable event, following which I had the opportunity to upgrade to my current Rans S6, which has a more powerful, more economical,

and more reliable Rotax 912 4-stroke engine. In the sixteen years (to date) I have owned this aircraft I had had many adventures:

- Three more International competitions in the UK microlight team (and another 4th place!)
- Two more Round Britain Rallies – winning the event again and placed 2nd on another occasion.
- Set a Guinness World Record for the number of circuits in one hour- 102 successfully completed.
- Flew into 114 airfields and airstrips in one day in aid of Help for Heroes
- Long distance trips to/from the Orkneys, France, Southern Spain, Czech Republic and Hungary
- Awarded a Bronze medal from the Royal Aero Club

At work, I have had various interesting customer-facing roles on the Nimrod, Hercules, JSF Lift-System and am currently Strategic Fleet Manager on the EJ200 engine on the Typhoon. While not exactly a flying career, it has been as close to aviation as I could get – and very rewarding.

Victoria (Vicky) Smiley (nee Huntly) (93-99)

On leaving the RN section of the Contingent in 1999 she studied at Durham University gaining an Honours Degree in Natural Science, Chemistry and Mathematics. During this time she continued her interest in the Navy, being a member of Northumbrian University Royal Naval Unit. She spent Easter and Summer breaks away from university by deploying across the UK and Europe onboard HMS Example. She was the Senior Midshipman in her third year.

The nautical theme continued after university spending a year travelling across South-East Asia crewing charter and delivery yachts. It was then time to get a proper job so she worked for South-West Water as a scientist for another year until 2004 when an opportunity arose to join the Met Office and train as a weather forecaster. It was at this time that she also completed RAF Reserve Officer training and joined the Mobile Met Unit. (This is a sponsored Reserve Unit of the RAF responsible for providing deployed weather forecasting services to the MOD.)

Since then she has completed a tour in Basra on Op. Telic (she met her husband on the first tour) and a tour on Op. Herrick, one in Kabul and three in Camp Bastion. She has also served in Kenya, Jordan and spent 18 months as the Senior Met Officer on Ascension Island. She is currently the Senior Met Officer at RAF Benson and has been involved in international capacity building in Nigeria and is on deployment to Afghanistan.

She lives with her husband, Pete, in Oxfordshire, and enjoys swimming and spinning in her spare time.

Compiler's Note: Vicky also gained her Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award during her membership.

Dr. Emma Sokell, BSc., Phd. (85-89)

Emma was in the first group of girls to join the Contingent in 1985. She proved to be an outstanding athlete, dominating the Devon County Cadet Pentathlon Championships for three years. She also gained her Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award in 1989. She won a place at Somerville College, Oxford gaining a First Class Honours Degree in Physics.



Whilst at Oxford she won her 'blue' for representing the University and was captain of the ladies cross-country team. She then went on to gain her Phd. In Atomic and Molecular Physics at Manchester University. Following post-doctoral research positions in Manchester, Tokyo and Toulouse, she is currently senior lecturer in Physics at University College, Dublin, with a research interest in atomic and plasma physics. Emma is an author of scientific publications and a regular contributor to scientific journals.

Emma lives with her partner in the Wicklow Mountains, still runs, and recently went as visiting professor to Tokyo University for four months which gave her the 'chance to dust off her Japanese'.

Compiler's Note: Emma is a Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award holder.

Samantha (Sam) Start (nee Armstrong) (88-92)

Sam has been married to Gavin for seven years and looks after an English springer spaniel!

Compiler's Note: Sam is a Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award holder.

Flight Lieutenant David Wheeler (rtd.), RAF (80-84)

David is a retired RAF Tornado pilot; now flying commercially.

Captain Jeremy (Jez) Waite, BA, Royal Marines (rtd.) (89-94)

Jez is currently coaching in a variety of outdoor pursuits including kayaking, climbing, sailing and caving at Haven Banks LEA Centre and studying at Exeter College.

He graduated in 1997 from Jordanhill College, Glasgow with a BA in Outdoor Education in the Community.

He was commissioned into Her Majesty's Royal Marines in 1998, serving for seven years; he was employed in a variety of jobs including operational tours of Northern Ireland and Iraq.



He has experienced his own continued recovery from the effects of PTSD leaving the service due to injuries sustained during the 2003 war-fighting phase of the Iraq war.

Jez is currently joint owner of Alps in Style, a company he established with his wife in 2004, tailoring winter and summer holidays in the French Alps and currently developing its programmes for retreat and self-development.

His motivation continuing to be in the service of others, he has trained as an NLP Master Practitioner and Spectrum Emotional Coach working for the charity Invisible Injuries, so that he can help others both military and civilian in their journeys of recovery, aiding people to get the most from life and realise their full potential.

Still fuelled by a love of the outdoors and sport, he remains a keen outdoor enthusiast cycling, telemarking, ski mountaineering and paragliding.

Compiler's Note: Jeremy is a Duke of Edinburgh's Golf Award holder.

Katie Williams (05-09)

Katie recently qualified as a Graduate Physiotherapist.

Compiler's Note: Katie was a member of the last Corps' Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award group.

Squadron Leader Samuel Wiseman (formerly Dickman), RAF, REG. (85-92)

Sam is commissioned in the RAF Regiment and is currently Officer Commanding 34 Squadron based at RAF Leeming in Yorkshire. His former appointments include Commandant of the RAF Survival School at RAF St. Mawgan in Cornwall and SO2 Air at 3 Commando Brigade in Plymouth.

Sam is married with three children and is currently on deployment in Afghanistan.

Compiler's Note: Sam is a Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award holder.

David Wright

David is the Managing Director of Northcott Cleaning Services Ltd.

Extracts from recent e-mails, etc.

You may be aware that I have recently retired after 36 years of military service, so my programme is more under my control these days. I have one photo of myself as a sergeant in the Contingent somewhere in my records as well as a copy of the number of letters written by you to my parents about my progress in the C.C.F. and a copy of the Ten Tors Certificate when I captained the team in 1974.

You will not be surprised to learn that my experience in the Contingent was one of the most important formative periods of my life and set me off on the road to a life of professional service in the Army.

Col. Bob Barnes CBE

I now find myself not trusting anyone to iron my shirts and scrambling mountains because of my experience with the C.C.F.

Dominic Chisholm

It will be good to catch up with yourself and other members of the school staff who I can honestly say were instrumental in shaping my career that included serving for 20 years in the Army (part of which was with General Andrew), and more recently carving out my second career within the UK Defence Industry.

Darrin Abbot

For my part, I will raise a glass to the Force on the evening and remember the happy times I had under Harold's, David's and your stewardship which gave me the confidence and self-belief to pursue a career in the Royal Air Force.

Steve Martin

Thank you very much for the invitation and I must tell you how much we still talk about the C.C.F. and what a huge impact it had on all our lives. I consider the 48hr. exercise, the night march, Dartmouth, HMS Raleigh, Ten Tors, D of E and adventurous training among the best things I ever did whilst at school. In fact C.C.F. is my memory of school. The intensity of my memories of the fun and challenge it was, completely overrides all other memories of school. I can still remember sleeping in a hedge on the night march and a barn another time. Being chased by cows, the taste of egg banjos in the morning, pet rocks, the amazing feeling of sitting on sentry duty in the middle of a clear night and the incredible stars above - I could wax lyrical for hours about it. So thank you very much, Mike, for the superb, life-changing opportunities you gave us which have given us strength of character and a huge appreciation of the countryside around us. I for one will never forget those days and I really want to say thank you for your commitment and dedication which made it all possible.

Have a fantastic night. With very best wishes,

Vanessa (Ness) Howard

It is very good to hear from you. It was only the other day that I was thinking fondly of my time in the C.C.F. having been for a walk around the frying pans area on the common.

Mark Collacott

I have such fond memories of my time in the C.C.F. It really did set me up for life. I remember so many amazing and not so amazing (freezing cold on Dartmoor) experiences. I had a chance to get my gliding wings, experience flying, which led onto my love of flying and later success on the University Air Sqn.

I remember we won all those Devon Cadet Pentathlon Championships, how well we did in the inter-contingent competitions as well as all the climbing, canoeing and other activities that were such great fun.

I am very proud that I was the first female senior cadet and winner of the Prowse and Britannia Trophies, these have pride of place alongside other academic and non-academic certificates. I was also very lucky to have gained both the Silver and Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award!

The experiences I gained in the C.C.F. taught me so much about myself, taught me to be confident, ambitious and to always aim high. I believe this grounding has ensured I have had a successful career and has made me a balanced and confident person.

I would like to thank you for your time and investment, which really was fantastic; thank you for believing in me and supporting me through what was an amazing time from first joining to helping out as an Adult Under Officer.

Natalie Roberts (nee Shorland)

It is no surprise you have received many wonderful e-mails about what the Contingent has meant to people. I still recall and talk about many of my experiences to this date and, given that I was 40 at the end of August this year, these things have remained with me for a lot of years! I was very fortunate to be given the opportunity of many amazing and once in a lifetime experiences. I have just quickly flicked through my album of certificates and clippings of just some of them, which has brought back lots of very good memories and has put a smile on my face.

Samantha (Sam) Start (nee Armstrong)

There was less form filling before taking 80+ Royal Marines on operations, than for a group of 14 year-olds on a day walk on Dartmoor!

Major Richard Howard, RM(rtd.)

Now Adventure Programme Leader, Outdoor Education Centre, Haven Banks, Exeter.