



Chairman's Report Autumn 2019

**Supporting cadets
Championing reserves**



RFCA

for Yorkshire and The Humber
Reserve Forces' & Cadets' Association

www.rfca-yorkshire.org.uk

Foreword

As chairman of the Reserves Forces' and Cadets' Association for Yorkshire and The Humber (RFCA), I would like to present my report for the last six months.

The period since April has been a busy one for the RFCA, with new staff, new projects and new ways of working. I have captured these in the following pages in which I have aimed to give members a useful overview of what we have accomplished on behalf of cadets and reservists across the region.

Last year, the Ministry of Defence was not able to allocate enough money to cover the full cost of repairs to our 600-plus building stock. However, we were able to meet the £400,000 shortfall from regionally generated income this financial year which permitted essential maintenance to go ahead.

We have also been able to proceed with a number of major developments which will make a real difference to both cadets and reserves. More details of some of these are shown in following pages.

I hope this report provides an insight to the progress we are making.

Air Commodore Ian Stewart CBE DL
Chairman

RFCA for Yorkshire and The Humber



Championing our cadets

Across Yorkshire and the Humber, cadets from each service have been learning new skills, taking part in adventures and having great fun.

Over Easter, Yorkshire (North and West) Army Cadet Force headed to Gibraltar for a week-long camp.

The summer saw hundreds of cadets head off to places as far afield as Ballykinler in Northern Ireland and as near to home as Strensall in North Yorkshire to attend annual camp where activities included sailing, cycling, fieldcraft and bouldering.

In addition, one air cadet, Jamie Butler from Barnsley Squadron had the trip of a lifetime during the summer after winning a place on a leadership course in the USA.



Boosting support from employers



Yorkshire and the Humber's employers have continued to take big strides in their commitment to the military.

Since March, more than 56 employers large and small have pledged their support for the military by signing up to the Armed Forces' Covenant – bringing the total number in the region to do so to 233.

And some of our employers have won national recognition for their efforts to ensure they give the military a fair deal – be they reservists, cadet force adult volunteers or veterans.

City of York Council (pictured top) won a Gold Award in the Ministry of Defence's Employer Recognition Scheme and eight employers won a Silver Award, including (clockwise from top right): Irwin Mitchell LLP • North Lincolnshire Council • Humberside Fire and Rescue • Software Box Limited, York • Mid Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust

Providing buildings where cadets and reserves can thrive



The RFCA continued to work to improve the buildings that are home to cadets and reserves in the region.

A £250,000 project to repair Keighley's historic drill hall got under way.

The scheme (pictured left, and above with site manager James Allan) has involved work on the roof and window light and is primarily designed to ensure the property is weather proof. Once completed, it will be the biggest single project the RFCA's estates team will do this year.

Others include work to create new storage space at York Worsley Barracks, a new roof at Strensall's Cadet Unit in York and new shower blocks at Londesborough Barracks in Hull and at the Army Reserve Centres in Huddersfield and Wakefield.

The RFCA also completed the sale of part of Duncombe Barracks in York and officially opened the new Stokesley Cadet Centre (pictured bottom left).

Showcasing cadets and reserves in the community



The RFCA promoted the role of cadets and reserves across the region.

The RFCA's Reserves Day campaign saw reserves and their employers feature across social media as well as in the print and broadcast media.

More than 100,000 people tuned into a BBC Radio Leeds' breakfast show which broadcast live from Harewood Barracks and featured organisations employing reservists as well as reservists themselves. Pictured above is reservist Jamie Richards who works as an assistant physiotherapy practitioner at Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust and is set for deployment to Afghanistan as part of 4 YORKS support for 2 YORKS' participation in Operation Toral. He featured in the show and is pictured left with his manager Michelle Thompson and the BBC's Oly Woodcock.

Cadets and cadet force adult volunteers also took centre stage in the RFCA's new-style Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenants' Award Ceremonies. The first took place in Sheffield (pictured right), followed by events in Leeds, Hull and York.

The ceremonies were an opportunity to pay tribute to the contribution both cadets and adult volunteers make to their local communities, as well as to reservists.

Dignitaries and community leaders also joined Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of North Yorkshire, Mrs Johanna Ropner, at a ceremony to mark the official opening of Stokesley Cadet Centre (pictured far right).



The RFCA continued to develop new ways of working designed to improve its effectiveness.

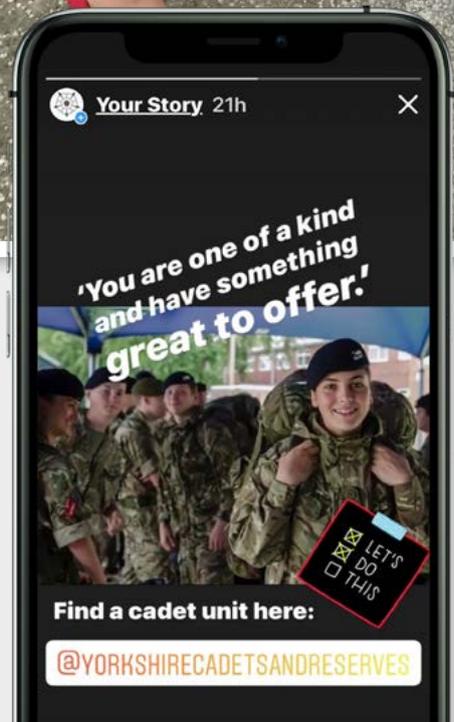
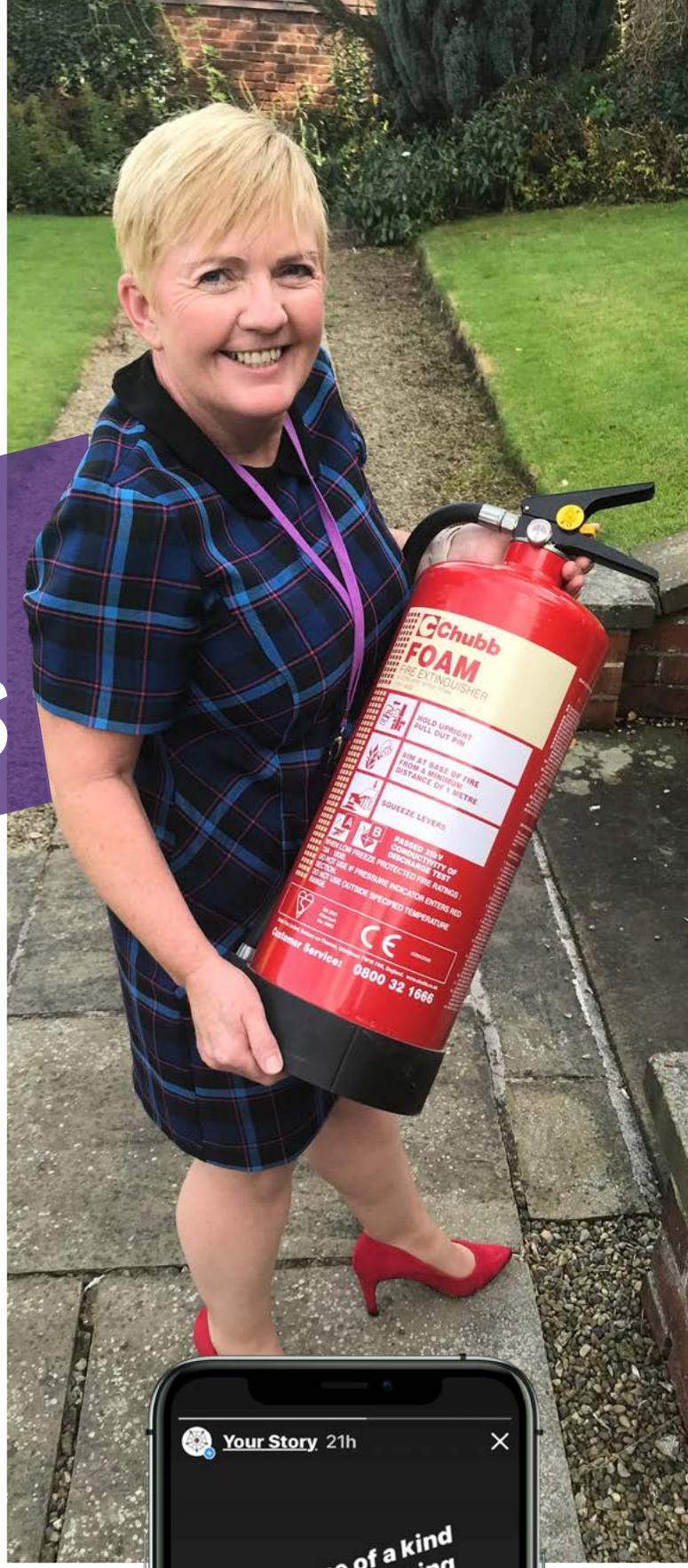
The estates team completed a comprehensive audit of every item needing regular servicing across its 600-plus building stock. This major piece of work, led by the RFCA's Mandy Jepson (pictured right), means the organisation now has a database detailing more than 5,000 items needing regular attention, ranging from fire alarms, emergency lighting, boilers and CCTV systems. This ensures the team can schedule servicing more effectively and improves financial planning by flagging any items due for replacement in any financial year.

Improving the way we do things

During the period, the engagement team undertook a full audit of the RFCA's current web content ahead of the development of a new, more user-friendly website in the second half of 2019/20. Together with the expansion of its social media activity to include an Instagram account (pictured bottom right), this work is aimed at improving the RFCA's engagement with the public, cadets, reserves as well as employers considering taking part in the Ministry of Defence's Employer Recognition Scheme.

New arrivals to the organisation were (below, from left to right):

- **Liz Kama**, employer engagement admin officer
- **Ken Haythorne**, head of finance
- **Jenny Robinson**, office manager
- **Ian Thompson**, surveyor
- **Pauline King**, assistant regional employer engagement director.





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