



**NW RFCA**

RESERVE FORCES' AND CADETS' ASSOCIATION FOR  
THE NORTH WEST OF ENGLAND AND THE ISLE OF MAN

**NEWSLETTER**

**ISSUE 6 | 2021**

**SPRING EDITION**

# INFRASTRUCTURE



**In this Issue: NW RFCA All Electric Vehicles, Army Cadet Centre Updates, Infra Brain Teasers, Meet The Team and much more....**



**Lee Delaney**

**Head of Infrastructure**

I wrote in the last edition that I hoped that we would soon be moving towards a state closer to the normality that existed in pre-COVID times and so far it seems as though we will soon be enjoying greater freedom both in our personal life as well as in our working world. Let us hope that is indeed the case but we continue to remember and reflect on the people and families, including many in the North West and on the Isle of Man, whose lives have been irrevocably changed by the pandemic.

At HQ NW RFCA we are now looking at an enduring change to our normal way of working for our employees giving more freedom to work a hybrid model mixing attendance in the office and working from home. What is important is that this will not affect our ability to serve our customers and will not impact on either the work we do or our ability to be contacted during the normal working day. Again I pay tribute to the Infrastructure Department personnel who have worked miracles through a challenging time to keep all of our outputs in line with our customers and stakeholders expectations.

Looking to the future, we now have our electric vehicles and charging points in place. Being able to boast that not only is Altcar Training Camp running off renewable energy generated on-site but also that our long-range pool vehicles are being powered by locally generated 'fuel' is an incredible statement and a sign of the way we should be looking to equip more of the Defence Estate.

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Wordsearch and  
What's The Word!



*This publication is produced by the  
NW RFCA Infrastructure Department.*

# Infrastructure Quick Read

## News and Numbers



**Welcome to our News and Numbers. feature This new feature is aimed at giving you a snapshot focus on Investments and Works to date!**

### Some of the works we have invested in to date...

- **Clifton ARC – New Boilers - £120k**
- **Clifton ARC – New Roof to main centre – £150k**
- **Wigan ARC – Replace windows - £100k**
- **Barrow ARC – New Boilers - £80k**
- **Barrow ARC – Refurbish conference room - £25k**
- **Chavasse House ARC – New Boilers – £80k**

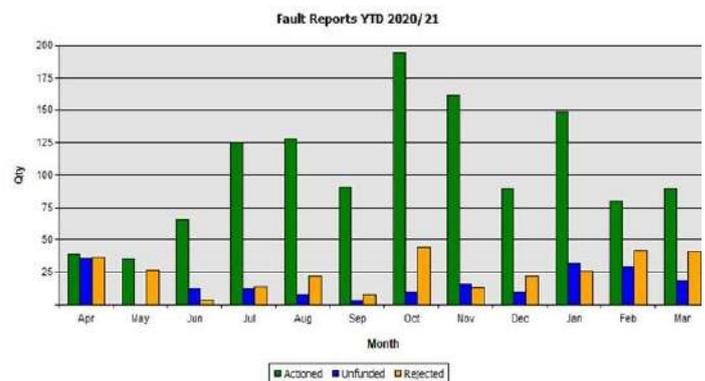
**Reactive Maintenance** - NW RFCA initially received an allocation of £1,075,908.00 and although funding is always well received it will not fully combat a declining middle aged estate. The increase in funding had a clear caveat placed upon it and that was to remove all high risk asbestos across the estate. This work is currently ongoing.

Given the pandemic and downturn in reserve and cadet output this resulted in less issues and faults being reported and could allow flexibility with regards to forecasting an early overspend.

**NW RFCA Helpdesk** - For FY 20/21 we received 1928 calls. This is a decrease of 617 calls against last year's equivalent. This was clearly as a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic.

**1 = Emergency one working day, 2 to 5 = up to 20 working days**

- 1 100%
- 2 99%
- 3 100%
- 4 100%
- 5 100%



### Statutory & Mandatory Inspections and Tests (SMIT) -

In FY 20/21 NW RFCA completed 5899 SMIT tasks in accordance with Hard FM standard tasks to date. 5141 inspections and tests passed the requirements with 658 failed tests or inspections.

NW RFCA spent £98,073.00 from works arising from SMIT. We currently do not receive any funding for works arising from SMIT, any works required must be taken from our reactive maintenance allocation.

### Additional Works Services -

NW RFCA completed 179 additional works services projects to the value of £5,291,024.64.

All works are currently managed in-house by our technical staff.



## NW RFCA Takes Delivery of Their First Fully Electric Cars!

Although electric vehicles are nothing new at Altcar Training Camp (we already operate a fleet of seven fully electric utility vehicles and three plug-in hybrid cars) today marked a new chapter when two, all-electric Kia e-Niros were delivered to the headquarters of the North West Reserve Forces' and Cadets' Association (NW RFCA) at their facility in Hightown.

The vehicles, which have a range of around 280 miles, will be used by staff to travel around the North West undertaking tasks in support of the Reserve Forces and uniformed cadet organisations of all three Services. The range of the car means that the whole region is in reach - although the majority of journeys undertaken are usually closer to home with the majority of our footprint within 50 miles of Altcar Training Camp.

The acquisition of the vehicles also allows us to further capitalise on the electricity that is generated by the 1.1 megawatt solar farm on a five acre site within Altcar Training Camp. With future planned developments including the possibility of battery storage to capture electricity generated during the day to then be used to power the site during the night, the Camp could well be entirely self-sufficient in energy terms within the next couple of years. As a result, these vehicles will seldom be required to be charged by energy from the National Grid.

This is a fantastic example of the opportunities that an innovative approach to working with industry partners can deliver and NW RFCA are leading the way for Defence in our plans and possibilities for the future which we hope to be able to replicate on other sites around the North West.



# Electric Vehicles Charging Points

## Solar Charging

Following the transfer of ownership of the solar farm at Altcar, the new owners have invested more than £200,000 in strengthening the solar electricity connections around the Camp. As well as Alt House being connected to the array, St George's ACF Centre has also been brought on stream with its power now coming from the 1 megawatt facility. In conjunction with this, Alt House now has four Electric Vehicle (EV) charging points in place which will allow our two new, fully electric pool cars to 'refuel' from the sunshine at Altcar. NW RFCA also operates three plug-in hybrid vehicles which will be taking advantage of the charging points which will become more utilised as more of our fleet becomes fully electric. We believe that we are leading the way across the Reserve and even the Regular estate in building this degree of capability into our infrastructure.



# Chavasse House (208 Field Hospital)

## Boiler Replacement

Chavasse House has had new boilers put in this year costing £80k.

Although this amount may seem vast, this is average for the cost of boiler replacements and as we have mentioned in previous issues, the boilers across the estate are over 30 years old, meaning there is a steady flow of faults reported, especially during winter time.

### **'Inframation' Boilers and Funding:**

If a part of a boiler is broken and can be sourced for replacement, then this can be funded through reactive maintenance (as the broken boiler would have been reported via the help desk). However, eventually the boiler will need more and more parts replaced as it ages, so it is at this time the Infrastructure Department try to source funding for an entire boiler replacement.



# Seasonal Trends



During this time of year, as you may have heard or read in last year's Spring issue of our infra newsletter, the Help Desk main topic of conversation is ground maintenance. Overgrown grass and weeds which are usually not reported for the rest of the year, are the most common enquiries at this time.

Grass cutting and weed killer treatment are funded with ground maintenance budgets. However if you have trees with overgrown branches or that have a disease, ground maintenance does not cover this and we have to try to source funding for this from elsewhere. Yearly costs for ground maintenance is £83,094.00.

Recently we had an enquiry from a member of the public about a tree at one of our sites as the branches were hanging high over into the street, however this tree was under a Tree Preservation Order (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/tree-preservation-orders-and-trees-in-conservation-areas>) meaning the organisation cannot treat or alter the tree in anyway without the local planning authorities consent in writing. After consent was sought, the trees overgrown branches were trimmed back, so they no longer physically hang over the boundaries of the sites walls.

It is to be remembered that the humble tree, which is not only an essential food source for many species, also provide scenic views across the estate whilst adding structure to the sites and is great for the environment. With this in mind, unless the tree is diseased or causing health and safety issues, it is best from an environmental perspective to leave it as is.

## ***However.....***

It is always important that you report any trees that are causing problems to the help desk, likewise, if the grass on your site needs cutting then call the Help Desk.



***Funding for ground maintenance is primarily for grass cutting and weed killer.***

***Yearly costs for ground maintenance is £83,094.00***

# More 'Infra'mation On.. Help Desk Communication!

The Help Desk operates between RFCA core hours which are 0830hrs to 1630hrs Monday to Friday (except on public holidays)



Email: [nw-estatesmco@rfca.mod.uk](mailto:nw-estatesmco@rfca.mod.uk)

Customers can contact us on **0151 541 5733**

## Added to This..

Did You Know.. About the **NEW Feedback** service?

*Customers are now able to contact the Help Desk with feedback, this could be either a compliment or a complaint (hopefully not!) and depending on what it is the Help Desk Staff will undertake the relevant action.*

*Customers are now able to contact the Help Desk with feedback, this could be either a compliment or a complaint (hopefully not!) and depending on what it is the Help Desk Staff will undertake the relevant action.*

*So next time you contact the Help desk with any issues relating to the status of an existing fault or to provide feedback more generally, don't forget to fill out the new Feedback Reporting Template*

### ESTATES HELP DESK COMMUNICATION FOR RFCA VOLUNTEER ESTATE CUSTOMERS

ANNEX B

#### Feedback Reporting Template

Customers should complete all appropriate fields. Feedback is categorised as a Complaint or Compliment

Name*	
Telephone Number*	
Email Address*	
Unit	
Site	
Building	
Description of feedback* for example: missed or no notice of appointment, incomplete works, lack of response, quality of workmanship, compliment etc.	
Please provide supporting documents e.g. photograph where appropriate (OPTIONAL)	

\*Compulsory field

# Infra In The Media...

## Everyone is talking about...



**201 Macclesfield Squadron Air Training Corps**

2 d · 🌐

The squadron buildings at 201 (Macclesfield) have just completed a major refurbishment. Fully painted inside and out, new kitchen, new toilets, new heating, new floor in building 1, refurbishment of roof, guttering, fascias and all doors replaced or repainted. The MOD contactors have done an amazing job with top quality finish throughout. Our Squadron is looking very clean and tidy. But even more exciting.... we will shortly be welcoming cadets back to mess it all up again!



**Army Cadet Force Colonel Cadets**

@ACFColCadets

So good to see this work at @LancsArmyCadets County HQ & Weekend Training Centre. I was pleased to hear today from @MarkUnderhill13 about other projects at @MerseysideACF @CheshireACF @gmanacf @CumbriaACF WTC's. Well done @NorthWestRFCA this will so help weekend training.



**Altcar Training Camp @Alt...** · 15 May

Brilliant to see 2348(Maghull) Sqn @MerseysideWing on site. Believed to be one of, if not the first, @aircadets sqn in the + to return to this type of F2F, day training. @OCMerseyside must be 😊. Values & Standards 🙌🙌 @CENWRFCA @NorthWestRFCA @ComdtAC



**HQ Cadets Branch, Region...** · 22 Apr

That's awesome 🙌🌍🇬🇧🙌🙌🙌🙌



**Mark Underhill OBE DL ...** · 22 Apr

Replying to @ArmyCadetsHQ

As a centre for cadet excellence including @MerseysideACF, delighted to say Altcar Training Camp owned by @NorthWestRFCA is doing its part with a 1.1 Mw solar ar...



# Army Cadet Training Centres

## *ACF HQs across the region benefit from works*

During the last 12 months the ACF County HQs' have had some works done, ranging from painting to new kitchen facilities!

**Cumbria ACF**— The Castle in Carlisle. HQ for Cumbria Army Cadet Force has recently had new kitchen facilities installed. These new facilities mean that the cadets and adult instructors can benefit from having meals made directly on site.



**Merseyside ACF** - St George's CTC looks brighter and more welcoming thanks to some painting around the building. The light colour on the walls gives the centre a cleaner and more modern look and feel when entering the building. Please see page 12 for more on St George's CTC.



# Army Cadet Training Centres

## *ACF HQs across the region benefit from works*

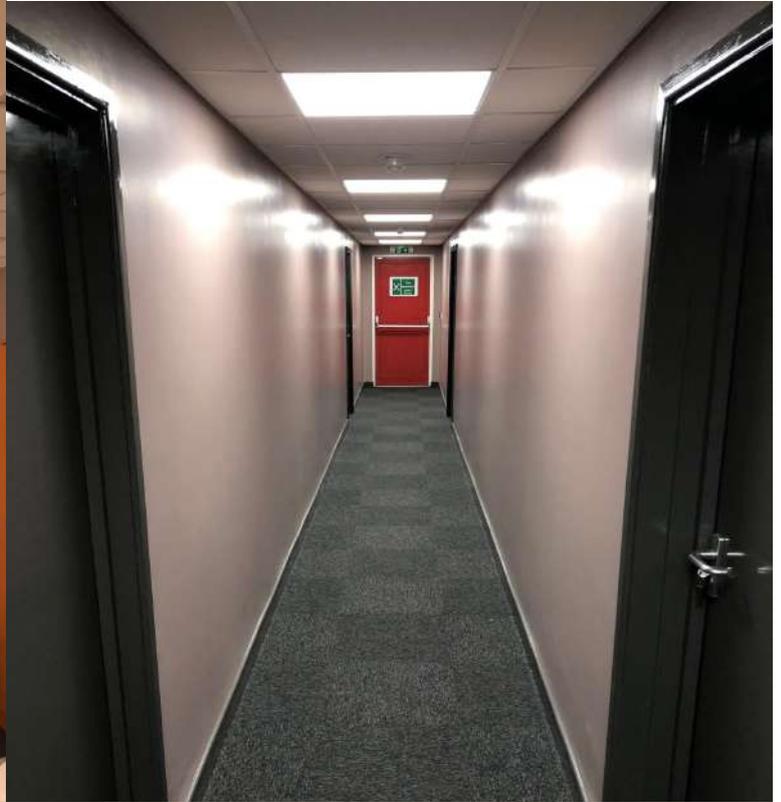
**Lancashire ACF**—Lancashire Army Cadet Force have had their accommodation block completely refurbished from scratch. The new look to the accommodation is very welcoming, with warm tones in the rooms and corridors, promoting a clean, fresh and more modern feel and look throughout the block.



# Army Cadet Training Centres

## *ACF HQs across the region benefit from works*

Lancashire ACF Accommodation Block works continued..



## Special Feature...

# St George's CTC, Altcar Training Camp.

By Lieutenant Colonel (Retired) Andy Downey, CEO Merseyside ACF

For this issue, Lt Col Andy Downey, CEO for Merseyside ACF, shares some information on St George's CTC, from yesterday to present day and what's new.....



MACF Adult Volunteers Outside St George's CTC –Permission to use photo from CEO

### Yesterday

In 1947 it was agreed to establish a cadet weekend training camp near A Range on Altcar Training Camp. It provided accommodation and training facilities for sixty cadets. In 1956 the camp was dismantled and the cadets would move to a new location (Now C Camp). In 1976, the Administrative HQ moved from Crawford House Upper Warwick Street Liverpool 8 to be co-located on C Camp with the Cadet Training Camp. In 1984 it was agreed to bring both the Administrative HQ and Cadet Training Camp up to date and the idea of a Cadet Training Centre was born.

The location was ideal due to its close proximity to Hightown railway station, as Merseyrail was the transport used by cadets from Wirral, St Helens and Liverpool.

St George's Cadet Training Centre takes its name from a local Hightown road adjacent to the centre that runs parallel to the railway track towards Hightown station. The CEO, Major Gordon Corbett MBE JP decided on this name as being neutral and acceptable to all

### Today

St George's Army Cadet Force Centre is the home of Merseyside Army Cadet Force. Opened on the 21 June 1986 by General Sir Anthony Read GCB CBE DSO MC as president of the ACF association at a cost of £500,000 at the time it was a sterling example of transformational change.



# St George's CTC, Altcar Training Camp continued...

## Today continued...

We continue to strive for betterment to the cadet centre that will benefit today's cadets and stay in step with the youth of today. Evolutional milestones we need to consider keeping the centre fit for purpose include:

- Cadet females in 1986 averaged 5% now it is nearer 50%.
- Communications have come along, mobile phones, the internet, social media.
- Changing Education Requirements.
- Increased regulations and legislation.



Lt Col Andy Downey and NW RFCA CE Col Mark Underhill OBE DL

## What's new?

We all appreciate that infrastructure funding is limited and every penny needs to be spent wisely.

Merseyside ACF are very grateful to the NW RFCA Infrastructure team for all their support. We have seen significant change to the fabric and minor works to improve our home over the last 12 months. We continue to look at innovative ideas and funding streams that we can influence.

The following additions have been possible since cadets last occupied the centre in March 2020, these works have been completed by both NW RFCA and other funding secured by Merseyside ACF.

Ground floor decoration	All carpets replaced with vinyl flooring
Old portakabins removed	New computer suite
County HQ office furniture replacement	New Wi-Fi access points
New large display screens	New Video conference facility
156 mattresses replaced	Bar carpet replaced
New outdoor advertising display	New outdoor notice board
New entrance signage (Home of Merseyside Army Cadet Force)	
Decommissioned kitchen converted into stores	



# Stockport ATC Refurbishment

**Stockport (162) Squadron** has had a facelift..

The Squadron has had a much needed refurbishment of its facilities. The buildings have now joined the 21<sup>st</sup> century with an improved aesthetic throughout. New kitchenette and ablutions facilities, as well as upgraded electrical systems to provide a more comfortable and welcoming environment for the next generation of Air Cadets to continue to venture in adventure!



# Altcar Training Camp Welcomes You....



Altcar Training Camp entrance has had a little 'makeover' during the last few months. The flag poles bearing the Union Flag and NW RFCA Crest, which were previously positioned inside the gate to the right hand side, have now been moved forward to stand proudly on either side of the brick gate posts, which also display new corporate signs, in the tri-service colour.

Added to this, the Guard House at the main entrance has also had some works done, including roof alterations and new windows!



# Altcar Training Camp

## Ablution Blocks Refurbishment

Ever wondered what an ablution block looks like stripped bare? Well our infranewsletter team were fascinated by seeing the process of the full refurbishment of ablution blocks 38, 40 and 42 at Altcar Training Camp, so much so, we did a 'photo'mentary documenting start to finish!



# Congleton ATC

230 (Congleton) Squadron has recently had a full roof replacement done meaning that both inside and outside has had works in the last 12 months.

The ATC Sqn had previously had an internal refurbishment carried out in early 2020.

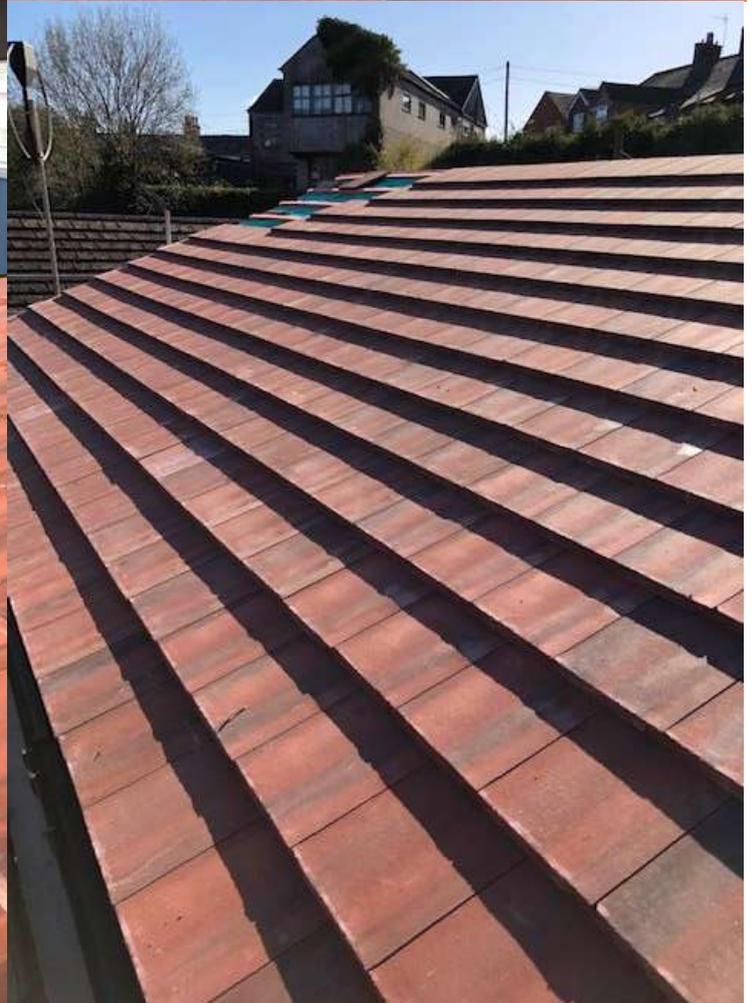
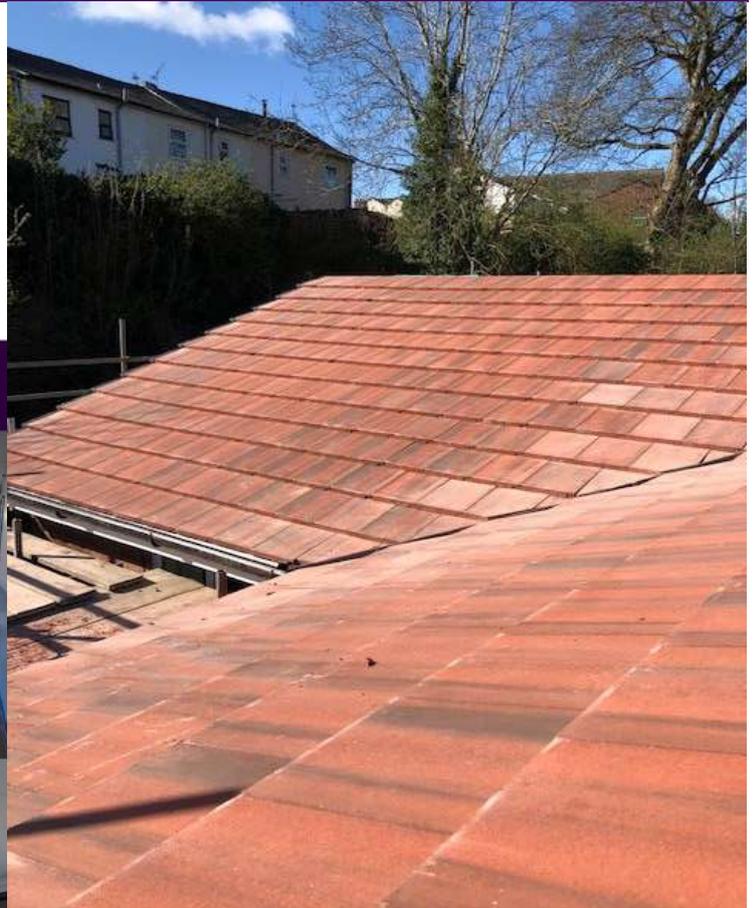
*The funding for both the roof and the refurbishment came from HQ Air Cadets.*

## Congleton ATC

Refurbishment of Congleton ATC has been completed recently. An internal refurbishment of the site was carried out which was funded by HQ Air Cadets.

The squadron themselves helped pick the colour scheme and work was completed by WJ Hardaker's who have carried out the works with the added challenge of social distancing their operatives and struggling to source materials.

The real success story about the refurbishment of Congleton is the completion of the project whilst managing the new conditions.



# Meet The Team

## Accounts Payable - Marie Blackmore

For this issue's meet the team we asked Marie Blackmore about her role...

### 1. What do you do?

*I am responsible for the processing of works and procurement invoices working closely with the Infrastructure team and Finance Department.*

### 2. How long have you worked at RFCA?

*I have worked at RFCA for about 6 years, starting in Alexandra Court, Aigburth.*

### 3. Where did you originally hear about the job for RFCA?

*I heard through word of mouth that there was a short term vacancy available working in the Infrastructure team. The role was to work with the Tenancy and Lease Manager to produce an up to date database regarding Lease and Hirings. I must have made a good impression because I was then offered a full time role as an Infrastructure Admin Officer.*

### 4. What would you say is an essential skill to have to be able to do your job?

*As Accounts Payable the role is fast paced with a high volume work load so I would say it is essential to be well organised and methodical to help prioritise your day to day work, but most of all keep Calm and keep smiling (especially when you are dealing with Waste Management queries).*

### 5. Do you have any hobbies?

*I enjoy walking and cycling and going to the gym when they eventually open.*



# Tom's Thumb Revisited....

Does anyone remember the **Tom's Thumb** article featured in Issue 2 of our Infra Newsletter? We do, but for those of you who don't here's a recap.....

NW RFCA Surveyor Tom Ellis visited **Wigan ARC** late 2019 and upon inspection was alerted to a very weathered window which had finally showed signs of decay after years of faithful service. At the time of the article back then, the position was that NW RFCA contractors would carry out a temporary repair funded by reactive maintenance and submit a PBF (Priority Based Funding) request to replace the windows and exterior doors across the site.

Moving forward to 2021 and Wigan ARC now has now had new windows put in and also had new entrance doors made of aluminium, put in.

This story is just one example of how at NW RFCA we endeavour to get the job done, we may not always be able to source funding for these types of works, but you can guarantee that we will try our utmost best to do so.



# Infra Brain Teasers



*Time for a brew and a brain teaser?*

## Word Search...

Can you find the words from the phonetic alphabet listed in our word search?

ALPHA  
BRAVO  
CHARLIE  
DELTA  
ECHO  
FOXTROT  
GOLF

HOTEL  
INDIA  
JULIET  
KILO  
LIMA  
MIKE  
NOVEMBER

OSCAR  
PAPA  
QUEBEC  
ROMEO  
SIERRA  
TANGO  
UNIFORM

VICTOR  
WHISKEY  
XRAY  
YANKEE  
ZULU

D	X	R	M	Z	C	B	A	R	R	E	I	S	T	U	R	I	E	O	W
O	S	R	O	O	B	D	C	H	J	L	O	J	G	F	D	S	O	U	P
O	X	A	V	M	F	E	H	J	M	X	Z	S	W	Q	A	X	C	B	Q
H	U	D	F	K	E	S	C	K	E	M	X	O	P	U	T	R	Z	Q	A
O	L	A	J	Q	P	O	C	X	M	N	B	D	M	E	Y	A	P	J	P
T	U	I	U	P	C	X	A	H	I	R	U	G	W	B	S	R	S	A	M
E	Z	S	L	K	C	Q	V	A	A	G	A	R	B	E	D	O	C	X	N
L	Q	E	I	R	Y	A	Z	V	X	R	F	Q	U	C	R	T	W	T	A
L	P	R	E	K	I	L	O	R	X	Z	L	A	Y	P	E	C	X	O	I
B	M	W	T	I	X	N	Q	D	W	O	S	I	S	W	B	I	B	R	C
V	T	P	Y	O	B	O	S	C	A	R	X	N	E	A	M	V	O	T	B
C	U	N	I	F	O	R	M	T	F	G	H	D	O	Y	E	B	V	X	X
H	P	A	W	P	E	D	O	B	A	R	P	I	K	J	V	P	Q	O	U
O	L	H	M	Y	Y	Q	D	H	B	N	M	A	A	O	O	E	C	F	Y
G	A	P	S	I	D	A	F	G	C	H	J	K	P	Q	N	A	X	A	R
N	L	L	Z	X	K	C	N	V	B	E	Y	N	M	A	R	X	B	Z	Q
A	Q	A	W	E	R	E	T	K	Y	U	I	A	O	F	L	O	G	O	Z
T	P	A	S	D	F	G	H	J	E	K	L	Z	R	X	I	C	V	K	W
D	Y	E	K	S	I	H	W	X	C	E	V	B	N	X	M	W	W	L	D
A	R	B	Z	W	T	K	A	T	L	E	D	P	Q	W	A	D	L	O	C

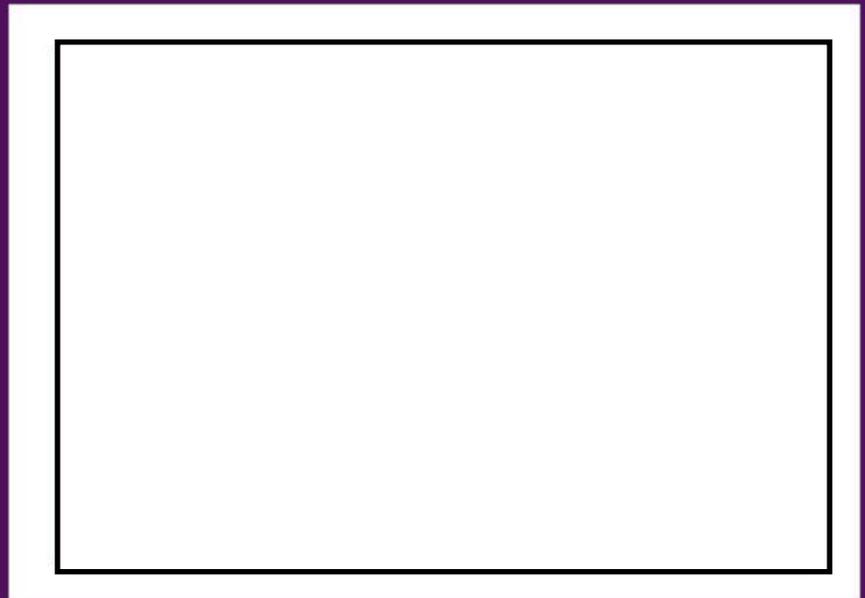
# Infra Brain Teasers Continued....



## What's The Word?

Can you work out what the words are below?

FMNIRUO
DOSELIR
ANWOEP
ASMELD
RDEARPA
OQAUDSNR
ISUTN
MCDNMAO
EBGAD
OROSPT



**Clue:** They are either Reservist or Cadet Related!

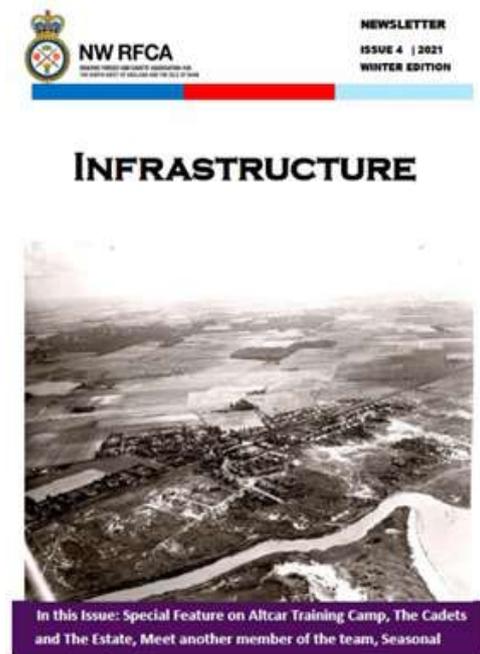
Find the word answers on page 22.



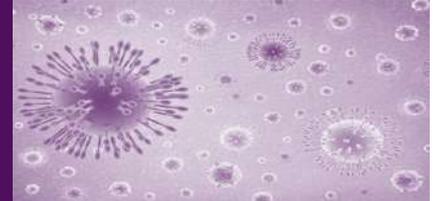
# Don't Miss Out!

If you have missed previous editions of our Infrastructure newsletter then don't worry you can view previous editions on the NW RFCA website under the Infrastructure section:

<https://www.nwrfca.org.uk/rfca/infrastructure/>



## NW RFCA Corona Virus Update



At the NW RFCA , the wellbeing of our staff, visitors and stakeholders continues to be our highest priority. As restrictions are easing, some staff have requested to work in Alt House on a regular basis with the majority still working from home. As ever, we really appreciate your continued support and we will continue to be here to support the Cadet organisations, Reserves and our wider stakeholders during these unprecedented times.

We will keep you up to date as necessary via our social media channels and our website. [www.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.gov.uk/coronavirus)



Find The Word Page 21 Answers:

UNIFORM, SOLDIER, WEAPON, MEDALS, PARADE, SQUADRON, UNITS, COMMAND, BADGE, TROOPS

The Reserve Forces' and Cadets' Association for the North West of England and the Isle of Man (NW RFCA) is the organisation which facilitates, supports and promotes the Reserve Forces of all three Armed Services and the three Cadet organisations in the region.

NW RFCA has a membership of over 150 experienced professional people interested in Defence. These include the Commanding Officers of Reserve and Cadet units in the region; selected naval, marine, military and air members who are serving or retired Reserve and Regular personnel; and, representative members from local government, universities, employers, employees and the Cadet organisations. Together, the Association Membership of NW RFCA advocates on behalf of Reservists, Cadet Force Adult Volunteers and cadets in the region, ensuring that they continue to thrive with the support of their local communities, employers and schools.



## **NW RFCA**

**Alt House,  
Altcar Training Camp  
Hightown  
Liverpool  
L38 7JD**

**Phone: 0151-541 5731 (Infra Enquiries)**

**Email: [nw-info@rfca.mod.uk](mailto:nw-info@rfca.mod.uk)**



Championing the Value of Reserve Service

Promoting the Cadet Experience

Encouraging Support to the Reserves and Cadets

Providing the Best Place to Work and Train

Generating Income for the Benefit of Reserves

