



## Godalming Air Cadets is 75 Years Old

Did you know that 1254 Godalming Squadron Air Training Corps (ATC) has been in the town for 75 years?

According to extracts from the diaries of Gilbert Streeter, 1254 Squadron came into existence in late March 1941, which, if the case, would make it one of the first squadrons to be formed after the official establishment of the ATC.

Initially the Squadron was based at the County Grammar School, with the use of the Y.M.C.A's Bridge Street offices, and was formed to serve Godalming & surrounding villages away from Guildford. A short while later it moved to Meadow Central School where the Headmaster did everything possible to help and make welcome the Squadron. It was not until June 17th 1941 that uniforms arrived. The initial Squadron had two flights 'A', the country or villages and 'B' the town (Godalming).



Apart from the photograph shown from 1951, there is nothing in writing in the 1254 archive to record any other events until the 30th of October 1960. A programme of events to mark the official opening of the new HQ in the grounds of the TA Centre in Hallam Road, Farncombe confirms the beginning of the current chapter in the Squadron's history.

The Air Training Corps is a national youth organisation for young men and women between the ages of 12 and 18 years of age. It has close ties with the Royal Air Force and provides exciting and structured activities for both male and female cadets.



Today Godalming Squadron is going from strength to strength, we have around 25 cadets with a good mix of both male and females. We are a very active squadron and our cadets are taking part in many activities including, flying, gliding, shooting, adventure training, camps on RAF Stations and the Duke of Edinburgh awards scheme to name a few.

Last weekend we took 12 cadets away to the Isle of Wight for Adventure Training and to qualify our Bronze D of E cadets for their expedition. It was a great success and already the cadets are talking about what to do next.

If you are between 12 and 18 years old and would like to meet new friends and start taking part in some exciting new opportunities then please get in touch via the e-mail address below.

We have a new recruit intake starting early September with a trial evening organised for the 31<sup>st</sup> August.



On the 3<sup>rd</sup> September the Squadron will be celebrating its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Do you know someone that was connected with Godalming ATC or were you a cadet or member of staff?

We are trying to get in touch with anyone who has had a connection with the Squadron. Please contact us via the e-mail address below or through our official Facebook page where you can see some of the activities we have been doing.



There will be a parade starting at 1:30 in the Waverley Borough Council car park where everyone is welcome to come and watch. This is followed by presentations and then an evening celebration with a live band. Tickets are available for the evening party at £10 for adults and £5 for under 16's, which includes buffet style food.

For further details about becoming an Air Cadet or our celebrations, please e-mail [chair.1254@aircadets.org](mailto:chair.1254@aircadets.org).