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Olympic Torch visits
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Thanks to all of you who took time to write the variety of articles in this issue. To send submissions to the Global Gateway, email BZN-GlobalGateway-Editor@mod.uk and any articles that we receive by the 16th of each month will be in the following month’s magazine. When you submit articles, remember that accompanying them with high resolution images really makes a difference. Please send a maximum of 2 images per email to work around our DII email size limitations. We very much look forward to reading about your endeavours this month!

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FROM THE STATION COMMANDER

Gp Capt Steve Lushington

The Olympics is over and we can breathe a sigh of relief and enjoy a brief respite until the Paralympics begins in a few weeks time. The Olympics have gone extremely well and there have been numerous comments regarding the military presence. Those personnel involved have received plaudits from both politicians and athletes and you have excelled as ambassadors for the Service. I would like to extend my thanks to all of you who have sacrificed your time over the summer to support, often at short notice, this extremely high profile event. I would also like to thank those personnel who remained at Brize Norton and covered shifts and filled in for those personnel who were seconded to the Olympic support. I do hope that you can all enjoy some Leave with your families when you are able.

As the summer period starts to move into autumn the next RiP will soon be upon us. Voyager crews have been undertaking numerous training sorties and I hope that they can alleviate some of the pressure on other fleets during this busy period. The last RiP went particularly well and I hope that, despite the ageing fleets, the Stn can match if not better our previous efforts.

Away from the operational focus, I would like to promote Families’ Day and ‘Brize Fest’ on 15 September. This is the Station’s opportunity to thank the families of our personnel who are equally impacted by the operational pace and demands placed on our people. The day looks set to be a great event and I hope the weather holds to ensure the day is a real success.

It has been a busy couple of months for the Station and the RiP will be our next major operational focus. I hope that you have had a good summer, and for those of you who were working at the Olympic village I hope you get to have some time off with your families. As always at Brize Norton, you never know what is around the corner and so I hope you are ready for what will be a challenging autumn ahead.

FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome again to another edition of the Global Gateway. August has been a particularly busy month with Station personnel tasked to support the Olympics as well as providing support to operations both at home and abroad. Whilst some personnel are required to help at the Paralympics I do hope that you and your families can enjoy Brize Fest on 15 September. As the home of Air Transport and Air-to-Air Refuelling, RAF Brize Norton is in the limelight as always and the article on the Global Air Chiefs Conference highlights the importance placed on the fleets based at the Station. Last month we focussed on the A400M Atlas which will be a welcome addition to the AT fleet, this month there is an update on the progress of Voyager which has been gracing the skies of Oxfordshire over the past few months.

As always, the magazine needs your articles in order to be successful. Please ensure that they are sent, along with photos, to the BZN-GLOBALGATEWAY-EDITOR@MOD. UK. The articles need to be submitted by the 16th of each month to enable the compilation of the magazine. Therefore to get an article in the October magazine, the article needs to be received by 16 September. The team is also searching for volunteers to help distribute the magazine among the Fairford, Faringdon and Shrivenham Married Quarters. If you are interested, please email the above address or contact the team on the telephone numbers above and left. I hope you enjoy this month’s edition.
Brize Norton Personnel involved in London 2012 Olympics

Specially selected service personnel from the Royal Navy, Army and Royal Air Force raised the Union and Olympic flags at the spectacular London 2012 Olympic Games Opening Ceremony on Friday 27 July. A select team of 16 tri-service personnel, including two servicemen from RAF Brize Norton raised the flags before a global audience of four billion people.

Meticulous preparations for this prestigious honour took place at HMS Collingwood in Hampshire earlier this month. Personnel from all three Services were trained in the delicate art of flag raising, as well as drill refresher training and underwent rigorous inspections of their ceremonial uniform.

Sgt Gary Main, Air Movements Sqn at RAF Brize Norton was one of the seven Union Flag raisers at the Opening Ceremony, while Sqn Ldr Lambert, OC C4i Sqn at RAF Brize Norton, was appointed Opening Ceremony Team Leader for the Military and said “It is a privilege to represent the country and our respective services to be part of a once in a life time opportunity. The whole team is immensely proud and excited to be part of an event that signals the start of the 2012 Olympic Games live in front of an estimated 4 billion people”. Sqn Ldr Lambert was responsible for co-ordinating the Flag raising ceremony on 27 July, which includes ensigns and personnel from the 3 Services.

The personnel were selected for the role due to their sporting backgrounds and charity work. Sqn Ldr Lambert has represented the county, the RAF and Combined Service at Badminton as well as winning the RAF Lord Wakefields Boxing Title. Supporting charity, he is a founder trustee of the Soldiering On Through Life Trust, established to recognise remarkable people, with an annual awards ceremony in March, who support the ‘military family’ as well as raising funds (over £100,000 to date) to assist numerous Military Charities.

Sgt Gary Main has also represented the RAF in numerous sporting activities including Triathlons, Cross Country, Road Cycling and Swimming in the discipline of Open water. In 2003 he was a team member of the RAF Brize Norton English Channel relay team who successfully completed the crossing in 10 hours 7 minutes and raised over £3,500 for local charities.

Sqn Ldr Tal Lambert from RAF Brize Norton heads up some of his team of 16 Flag bearers and raisers for the Olympic Opening Ceremony.
On 6 July, RAF Brize Norton hosted an important part of the Chief of the Air Staff’s Global Air Chiefs’ Conference in the Air Tanker Hub. CAS wished to showcase elements of the RAF’s Air Mobility Force as a fitting prelude to a visit to RIAT which adopted the Airlift theme this year. This provided the Stn with a fantastic opportunity to highlight our capabilities and achievements to the senior representatives of the world’s leading Air Forces.

Although the event was organised by 10 Sqn, many people from all over the station were heavily involved and Air Tanker provided excellent support. With many weeks worth of planning, admin, and rehearsal, the Dep ProjO Sqn Ldr Chadwick meticulously organised a morning that would stay in the minds of the Chiefs for quite some time.

The Chief of the Air Staff, ACM Dalton, opened proceedings with a warm welcome and urged the guests to get the most from the morning by engaging with those presenting and asking probing questions. Both the Force Cdr and the Stn Cdr gave interesting and detailed briefs on the roles of Strategic and Tactical AT within the Royal Air Force and Defence as a whole, the Stn Cdr in particular paid tribute the effort and work ethic of all those at RAF Brize Norton. The Chiefs were then invited to visit three separate presentations from the different operators at RAF Brize Norton. Representatives from XXIV, 30 and 47 Sqsns were present along with a C-130J aircraft to brief on the tactical nature of AT Ops. Accompanied by members of 47 Air Dispatch they were able to give an insight into how the Army operates hand in hand with the RAF Tac AT.

99 Sqn were represented by both aircraft and personnel, briefing on the long range nature of Strategic AT and MedEvac tasking. They gave detailed
insight into the problems they face and, more importantly, how they overcome them on a daily basis.

10 Sqn Stands were also set up from 216 and 101 sqns with members presenting on the nature of their longstanding successful operational history and the ongoing difficulties they face with ageing aircraft.

Wg Cdr James, OC 10 Sqn, presented to the Chiefs from the steps of the Voyager aircraft. He gave an insight from personal experience into the differences, issues and many successes that have come from standing up 10 Sqn in partnership with AirTanker. The honest, humorous and detailed nature of the brief entertained the guests as they listened intently and engaged Wg Cdr James with pertinent questions and experiences of their own.

Undoubtedly, the 'highlight' of the day came when the Chiefs were invited onboard the Voyager aircraft and were flown exactly on time to their next appointment at RIAT.
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Training Successes

Despite the best efforts of the weather, we have had an extremely busy summer with a number of training successes. In the last few months, Cpl Paul Morrison from 216 Sqn has flown his first solo and is now racing through the syllabus and has completed several more solos. MALM Ian Marshall has also passed his skills test and is now fully qualified for his PPL. CFI, Sqn Ldr Matt Lane, who sent Paul on his first solo and examined Ian, said “Paul and Ian are flying to an excellent standard which is a great credit to their hard work and their instructors. It is great to see such dedicated non-pilot members of Brize progressing through their training and flying to very professional level”. In addition, 2 Navy Officers and 3 RAF Officers have all qualified with us for their Single Engine Piston ratings and we have passed several people successfully through their Instrument Meteorological Conditions ratings.

New CA A/EA SA accreditation for Military Pilots

The new EASA accreditation scheme for military pilots has now been released by the CAA as Section O to CAP804. Brize Flying Club is able to provide all the training required by the new scheme to help military pilots get an EASA PPL and we have excellent links with a number of Commercial schools and Industry advisors. Please get in touch with the CFI to discuss your personal circumstances and we can offer you a bespoke package and any advice you require.

We have two PA28 aircraft on the fleet at Brize for training and hire; flying is available 7 days a week. For more details of the club and our Enhanced Learning Credits schemes please visit our website at www.brizeflyingclub.com or contact:

OIC, FS Steve Lloyd, 99 Sqn, 99SQN-ALMFI1@mod.uk
Chief Flying Instructor, Sqn Ldr Matt Lane, SEngO 101 Sqn, matt.lane253@mod.uk

RAF Falcons parachute display for Olympic Mountain Biking at Hadleigh Farm

The RAF Falcons parachute performed a display at Hadleigh Farm in Essex on 11 August, following the medal ceremony for the Olympic Mountain Biking, which was being held at the venue.

The possibility for the display was scoped a year ago through contact with LOCOG and the brief was a difficult one given the airspace and security restrictions in place for the Olympics. The plan was to mount at Southend airport to avoid the London restricted zone. The go ahead was given and on 11 August the Drop Zone party deployed to Hadleigh farm to set up for the jump. The first obstacle came in getting through security on the ground, especially given that the kit for the display included pyrotechnics and sharp instruments. Once inside the event though, the team were able to set up and also watch some of the mountain biking events going on and cheer on Annie Last of Team GB as she initially led the women’s event.

The brief was for the display to commence as the flags were lowered following the presentation of the medals. Flt Lt Ben Lonsdale, OC Falcons, called OK to drop as the last few bars of the Marseillaise were playing out for the winner of the women’s event, Julie Bresset. The team dropped from 12,000ft and 2,000 yds out and opened their canopies to form the stack, trailing smoke and with Sgt Jon Parkhurst displaying the Union flag. The media helicopters covering the event stood off and captured the descent as the show caller announced the arrival of the Falcons who duly stole the closing moments of the show on the BBC coverage of the event.

Following a successful landing in the drop zone the team moved up to the crowd and presented their salute prior to being mobbed by the waiting media. Flt Lt Lonsdale said of the experience, ‘the atmosphere at the event was great - really relaxed and friendly. The guys did very well on what was a very challenging drop zone - difficult to see and on a slope surrounded by trees.’

The time for celebrations was short however as it was back to Southend airport to mount up for the next drop in to Bristol Balloon Fiesta later that afternoon.
WO Tony Dunn, Logistics Squadron Warrant Officer at RAF Brize Norton was selected to represent the RAF at the 2012 Football Association Community Shield, held at Villa Park on Sunday 12 August. This was in recognition for his commitment to RAF Football throughout his 29 years service. He carried the FA Community Shield onto the pitch at the annual curtain raiser for the new football season as part of the pre-match ceremony and again for the post-match presentations in front of a crowd of 42,000 spectators.

WO Dunn was chosen and notified of the honour through the Royal Air Force Football Association. He was selected on the basis of his long involvement and commitment to RAF Football both as a player with much success at Representative level football for the RAF and later in his career focussing on the management and coaching side while also gaining qualifications in Sports Therapy. He accepted the honour and was undaunted by the requirement from the FA to look after the “valuable items in a pressurised environment in front of the 42,000 crowd and cameras”. WO Dunn was joined on the day by a representative from the Navy and from the Army who carried out the FA Cup and the Premier League Trophy, respectively, and his performance was watched from the stands by his son Jamie. Speaking after the event WO Dunn described it as a “great honour to represent the RAF at the FA Community Shield. Football has been and is a major part of my life and I feel very fortunate to have enjoyed such fantastic opportunities through RAF sport. The Service provides a great platform for participation in sports at all levels and I always encourage personnel to grasp the sporting opportunities available to them.”

WO Dunn’s football career has extended throughout his time in the RAF and he has played Station Football at every location that he has served, beginning with RAF North Luffenham, Leicestershire, in 1983. Whilst at RAF Bruggen, Germany, he played for the RAF Germany Representative Team and throughout the 1990s he played at representative level for Strike Command, Logistics Command and for the RAF Senior Representative Team. Following the 1992-1993 Inter-Services tournament, he was named as RAF Football Association Player of the Year. In 2001 and 2002, as Captain and Player Coach, he led the RAF Leeming Station Football Team to consecutive RAF Challenge Cup victories. As his playing career was coming to an end he qualified as a Level 2 Football Coach and commenced his Sports Therapy studies, culminating with the Football Association Diploma in the Treatment and Management of Sports Injuries in 2008. Later qualifying as a FA Medical Tutor, he now teaches Emergency Aid, First Aid for Sport and Level 2 Treatment of Sports Injuries for the RAF, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire Football Associations.

Whilst at RAF Brize Norton from 2006 to 2009 he was Chairman of the Inter Section Football League and was Player/Coach of the Station Football Team. Since moving back to RAF Brize Norton on posting in November 2012, WO Dunn has taken the position of Officer Commanding RAF Brize Norton Station Football. Currently and since 2009, he is the Senior Sports Therapist for the RAF Ladies Representative Team. He also manages the RAF Veterans Football Team, playing fixtures against the other Services Veterans Football Teams and charity matches raising money for the RAF Benevolent Fund and Help for Heroes.
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UK SPAG is made up mainly of submariners and is one of a growing number of similar teams - Italy, Turkey, Greece and the Ukraine all have declared SPAG capabilities. In addition, Singapore and Australia are looking to develop their own teams. We work closely with our Italian SPAG counterparts and if needed, both teams can combine for a major incident, working closely alongside SPAG includes 148 Cdo FO BTY RA and the Fleet Dive Unit (FDU).

The men of 148 are Commando trained and parachute trained and are proficient in stealth insertion via submarine, parachute, boat and helicopter. 148 Battery Fire Support Teams can accompany UKSF teams into action, using their specialist skills in controlling artillery and air strikes. Their particular expertise is in calling in Naval Gunfire Support. Fire control computers and gyroscope guns on modern British destroyers allow for highly accurate fire control.
shelling of targets.

The Fleet Diving Unit (FDU) provides a niche capability supporting SPAG. That is the provision of Maritime Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Force Protection in direct support of the surface, submarine and RFA Flotillas around the globe. A genuine above, below and between deck capability, this skill set provides an additional layer of protection for those deployed Units that are judged to require it, again often deploying to an array of theatres at short notice.

Exercise Gib Splash is an annual parachute training exercise carried out in a maritime environment off the Gibraltar coast. The parachuting element of the exercise is run by a small team of PJs within the Airborne Delivery Wing who commit their time and vast expertise within parachuting to enforce the ongoing Defence Asset to worldwide British personnel and Territory.

The Exercise is aimed to maintain the Operational Parachuting Standard of the Submarine Parachute Assistance Group (SPAG) and support other units’ continuation training in support of SPAG, including 148 Cdo FO BTY RA and the Fleet Dive Unit (FDU). The exercise also included a small section from the Italian SPAG in order to build upon an already extensive interoperability package between the two Nations.

Exercise Gib Splash was conducted from 01-05 Jul 12 mounting from RAF Brize Norton utilising the aircraft and crew from 47 (SF) Sqn. After a short transit to Gibraltar the bulk of the Exercise would start the following morning. The aim of the Exercise was to maintain SPAG’s parachute capability by training new parachutists on the 22ft Steerable Static Line (22’ SSL) parachute, retain currency for qualified 22’ SSL and Static Line Square (SLS) parachutists and also provide the opportunity for selected personnel from RAF Gibraltar to undertake a ‘one-jump’ experience into a water Drop Zone (DZ).

The DZ was located off the Gibraltar coast in the midst of a busy shipping lane. It is an extremely challenging task for both the DZ Safety Officer and the Water Safety Officer to de-conflict between Cargo vessels, sailing boats and even IX Sqn from Marham flying their Tornado GR4 in close proximity to the intended landing area. All of this helps in building a lifelike scenario for the parachutists and ensures that the Operational Performance Standard is maintained. Water rescue for the parachutists and parachute equipment was provided by Gibraltar Squadron, who are a Naval asset in Gibraltar who’s main effort is to protect Sovereign Waters at any given time. This was put to the test on a number of occasions during the Exercise where the safety boats were called away to investigate Spanish Boats in Sovereign waters before we were able to continue the sortie.

Utilising Gibraltar has its benefits, the main one being the good weather, which is ideal for parachuting. Over three days we dropped a total of 161 round parachutes and 8 role specific square parachutes, which, in an operational environment would generally be used by a coxswain of a despatched boat to ensure that he lands close to the boat. The pace on the ground, in the water and in the skies was relentless and the work ethic from all was second to none. This was clearly evident by the end result in qualifying eleven ab-initio troops, twenty conversions, from one parachute type to another, twenty ‘round’ and eight ‘square’ currency to ensure they are competent in parachuting drills and procedures, all within three days.

In all, Exercise Gib Splash was a huge success, for the crews of the 47 (SF) Sqn Hercules, the PJs and the parachutists. All of whom are now fully competent to take on the role should SPAG be called upon. Ex Gib Splash is followed in February by Ex Med Splash, an exercise that has the same aims, but we plan to concentrate more on the following of unmanned equipment loads such as life rafts and harness packs. These contain medical supplies to enable the SPAG doctors to hone their skills on the water where they will set up a triage unit in a Multi-Seat Life raft out at sea.

Cpl Nick Hynes.

photographs taken by WO1 Clive Smith.
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BrizeFest will be headlined by some fantastic live music acts and will end with a spectacular firework display. Families Day is free, but tickets for BrizeFest are available to buy NOW at the knockdown price of just £5 each for all RAF Brize Norton personnel (Service and Civilian) and can be purchased for friends and wider family members too. After August, ticket prices will rise to £10 each - so take advantage of this half price offer while you can!

BrizeFest tickets are available to buy from Angie Langridge in the Fire Section (Ext 5975), Laura McLoughlin or Jennie Fowler in the print centre (Ext 7238 or 5822), Cheryl Hegarty in 216 Sqn (Ext 5924) and Phil Cavey in FHQ (Ext 6848).

An amazing variety of foods and refreshments will be available from 1200-2200 hrs in our food village, ranging from specialist coffees, sweets and ice-cream (provided free to under 16's by RAFA), to pizzas, burgers, a carvery, lamb roast and chilli-con-carne. Surely something to tempt everyone!

Throughout the day, there will be a number of fairground attractions for you to experience and, during Families' Day only, a huge assortment of exciting and nostalgic displays will be available to view. Displays include martial arts, the Austin Healy Club, Orwell Fine Arts, Celtic Motorcycles and many more. There will also be a number of aircraft on static display such as the King Air, Tornado GR4, Tucano and a number of our own Brize-based types. There will be plenty to do for the little ones as well; face painting, soft play area, a dog display and kids’ zumba classes.

Families’ Day main attractions include our very own RAF Falcons, jumping in at 1730 hrs, and the Knights of Middle England. This is an exciting and dynamic display of medieval jousting and horsemanship.

Don’t miss out on this fantastic day! Buy your tickets for BrizeFest now at the knockdown price of £5 each and come along from 1200 hrs on Saturday 15 September 2012 to experience an unbelievable RAF Brize Norton Families’ Day!
'After August, ticket prices will rise to £10 each - so take advantage of this half price offer while you can!'
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For the rest of the squadron back home, it was business as usual. 30 Sqn played host to the Woking Aircrew Association which meant Flt Lt Drew Macey and Sgt Ben “TK” Tomkins opened up a Hercules for them to have a delightful look round. TK would join Sgt Si Hey on another Ex Crown Pinnacle, undertaking hot weather pre-deployment training with SERE training included. Operating from a small, isolated airfield in high temperatures is ideal preparation for deployed operations. Invaluable refresher training on personnel recovery and the use of issued survival equipment continues to ensure that crews remain au fait with the kit which will save your life should you find yourself in a hostile environment in hot and sandy places. Two Op HERRICK frame changes were carried out with varied success. Sgt Wade and Sgt Salt were marooned in Cyprus for two weeks having gone unserviceable, but were kept entertained by the Akrotiri Rugby Tens tournament. The other frame change sailed through without delay, no doubt due to the slick operating of MACR Chris Hart, FS Stu Wright and Sgt Keith Dickinson. This was a welcome back to a flying squadron for Stu after his stint as station Electronic Warfare Officer, but he slipped back into his flying routine with no problems as expected of a loadmaster with his experience. As Stu arrives, we must say goodbye and good luck to our triple-event winning swimmer, Sgt Adam Faulkner, who leaves to join 216 Sqn. All the best Adam, I don’t think the Tristar goes as far as Singapore, but you’ll always have fond memories of some of 30’s epic adventures.

Crews from 30 Sqn deployed to Prestwick as part of Ex SCOTTAC for two weeks of training in the wilds of Scotland, along with their TAC AT compatriots of 47 Sqn. The crews undertook steep tactical approaches into airfields around the country, as is the normal procedure in operational theatre. This was a great opportunity as it is not always possible to carry out this procedure at home base. As the exercise used the training airframes for the duration, the second week involved some route flying, firstly to Halifax, Nova Scotia and then flagging Gibraltar to drop off some cargo en-route to Toulouse, the home of Airbus, and then to Ancona, Italy on the way home. For the pilots, some very useful Oceanic training and approaches to busy civilian airfields was undertaken, which has been invaluable given our operational tempo, and an unexpected load from Gibraltar ensured the loadmasters had a little more to do than make tea! This was a very successful exercise, and a credit to those involved in the organization and execution, ensuring once again that the Hercules fleet is able to operate away from home base with minimal support.
On 9th July, the Olympic Torch visited RAF Brize Norton, courtesy of former 47 AD Warrant Officer Pete Edgington who now works as part of the Olympic Relay Support team.

Mr Edgington who left the Services last year, was head-hunted and asked to become part of the Support Team. He has spent the last 50 days on the road following the lit Olympic Torch, carrying the spare/next Olympic torch and providing support as required. Mr Edgington said he has been amazed at the enthusiasm and support with which the Olympic Torch has been received across the country and also at the incredible feats achieved by those selected to carry the torch.

On one of his few days off, and close to his home town, Mr Edgington was kind enough to bring the Olympic Torch onto RAF Brize Norton to show Station personnel. Mr Edgington rejoined his old Sqn, 47 AD, for a Sqn photograph with the torch. The torch then headed to JADTEU, 24Sqn, 47 Sqn and 30 Sqn where personnel were able to hold and be pictured with this important piece of Olympic history.

Over 100 personnel from RAF Brize Norton have been called up to assist with the Olympics and Paralympics over the next 3 months, in a variety of roles. In particular, Sqn Ldr Lambert, OC C4i Sqn, has been appointed Opening Ceremony Team Leader for the Military. He recently spent a few days at HMS Collingwood in Gosport to prepare for this role. Sqn Ldr Lambert will be responsible for co-ordinating the Flag raising ceremony on 27 July, which includes ensigns and personnel from the 3 Services.
The JR's Summer Ball was held on a rare balmy August evening in the Spotlight Club Complex in Downtown Brize Norton Camp. This year the Spotlight Club Committee headed up by Mike Place ably assisted by Jase Corban and Paul Batcheler aimed to deliver a Summer Ball more akin to the Balls held at the Officers' or Sergeant's Mess Function.

The theme chosen by the Spotlight Committee for the 2012 Summer Ball was Cirque du Soliel. This included turning the interior of the Spotlight into a Circus Arena and outside was transformed into a Fairground. Entertainments included dodgems, Twister and Meteorite fairground rides, a chance to go head to head on the Pugilist sticks and Bungee runs and inside the lounge bar had a variety of Casino tables to test peoples luck. The musical entertainment came in the form of a couple of fantastic acts in Rockaoke and Nikki. Of course the event would not have been able to go ahead without volunteers to help on the night and the clean up, who ranged from the Station Commander and the execs handing out Pimms Cocktails, to the SNCO's and Officers who gave up their time to organise and run the Ball and were still manning the event until the last stragglers were kicked up at 04:30. A big thank you goes to Flt Lt Ben Lonsdale who gave up his time to take photographs on the night which can be downloaded from www.lonxy.co.uk clicking on the Cirque du Brize tab and entering the password 'spotlight'.

Fancy dress was optional, but many guests made the extra effort and the results were amazing, the prize. The prize for the best fancy dress was shared by LAC Peter Berrisford from 1AMW and LAC Becky Lawer based at Chicksands who will be
enjoying their bottle of Verve Clique Champagne chilled on ice. The Kindle prize draw, for those who purchased early bird tickets, was won by Cpl Tanith Brown from ADW.

The Summer Ball opened its doors at 1930 and saw a steady procession of amazing costumes and stunning ball gowns paraded up the entrance ramp. The official photographer was in full swing here and has some great photos which can be seen at www.Facebook.com/brize.bop. The early favourites of the evening were the Cocktail Bars, the Casino tables and of course the Fairground Rides outside. The buzz around the venue was highly noticeable and many of the party goers took me to one side to express their happiness and in some cases almost disbelief, on what had been put on and that this wasn’t just a ‘normal’ Spotlight function. The ISS Team lead by Freyja also did us proud on the night providing a Cocktail Bar that was extremely popular and also drink offers that enhanced the night still further, the food that came out later was also excellent especially the pizza that I sampled, top nosh.

Later in the evening the main band of the event took to the stage, Rockaoke, who were an instant hit with the crowd, and as usual, the party animals amongst us were not backward at coming forward to sing with a live band. The odd thing here though was the standard of the performances, they really were excellent! Rockaoke performed three outstanding sets and could have gone on all night as far as the audience were concerned. I spoke to Jonny from Rockaoke after their final set and he was very complimentary about the standard and depth of singing talent at Brize Norton and also how ‘up’ for a party you all were! They would love to come back as this was their first military performance and they couldn’t get enough of the enthusiasm and how friendly and helpful everyone was to them, which
Cirque du Brize

pretty much sums up the atmosphere within the crowd.

Chris Brown featured on the main stage with his hard house and later moved on to more ambient tunes. As usual he was also outstanding and maintained the tempo on that dance floor throughout the early morning. In the outside Bar Nikki set up and played a chill-out acoustic set, backed by Steve Pealing on his debut performance. Nikki is now a regular at Brize Norton and has performed in the Rugby Club a few times and both her and Steve’s performances went down very well with the, by now, very tired party goers. A cracking night for all and I am sure we will see more of this sort of thing.

Batch
FS Support Engineering Flight

“What a great night the JNR Summer Ball was, a real success! Everyone I knew had a really good time and looking forward to next years already!”

SAC H Scarlett
PSF | RAF Brize Norton

“The Casino was great fun; the staff helped to explain the games and were polite to everyone throughout. Due to the ample space everyone was able to walk about and not be crushed, moving into the different areas as they wished. The fairground rides were good fun though I only went on just as they were about to pack up. It was great to see so many people from camp having a good evening from all sections.

DSMC Pharmacy

The DSMC Pharmacy deals with a large number of tasks which aid in the efficient running of the Section. Many people will imagine that we only dispense medication prescribed by the MOs, however, we also are responsible, among many other tasks, for receiving, replenishment and issuing of DUFAKs and ELFAKs; receipting of drugs and medical items from suppliers; stock checking, disposal of time expired medication and medical alerts.

We receive prescriptions from the MOs and Nurses of the DSMC, as well as those from the Dental Centre and DCMH. Over the past year our figures for issued prescriptions (this does not include items that have been dispensed and then not collected) have increased significantly. In April this year we handed out 1000 more items than we did last April, May 2012 jumped to 2111 items issued compared to 1146 the
The mixture of dress was a bit peculiar some people went down the glitz route or the fancy dress route, then there were the others that did neither, which was a shame. Hopefully seeing the effort made by others will give people the confidence to dress up for the Christmas Ball!”

Cpl Tanith Brown
ADW ADJ

“The preparation for the ball was really tough but the hard work was worth it as everyone had a fantastic time! My personal favourite moment of the night was getting to sing on stage with Rockaoke. I just hope we can keep putting events like this on in the future for the junior ranks on camp!”

Dean Anderson
SAC (T)
Support Engineering Flight

“The summer ball was a fantastic evening and I’m really looking forward to Christmas when hopefully there is another event like this”

Miss Michelle Harper

previous year. At present we are currently processing around 20 Repeat Prescriptions a day. As you can imagine, this keeps us on our toes!

Many of you will have had appointments regularly at the DSMC and been given medication that requires regular issuing. Depending on circumstances many of our patients at Brize Norton are receiving what are called Repeat Prescriptions.

**What are Repeat Prescriptions?**

These are medications that the MO feels you will require on a regular basis, perhaps an item that you need to take long-term. The MO reviewing you will set up a system where each medication on your Repeat list will have a set number of issues. They will usually be available to you for six issues (six months) initially, which may be increased to a year after prolonged use. This will be to ensure suitability of the medication you have been given, and give the chance for any checks to be made, e.g. blood pressure. Once you have been established on a medication with none or no significant problems the MO may be content to increase the time period between reviews.

**How can you request Repeat Medication?**

There are several ways to request your Repeat Prescriptions. Firstly is the traditional slip of paper. When you receive a prescription, if you have any items on Repeat you will also receive a slip of paper with these listed. You should tick the box next to any medications you require and place it in the white Repeat Box on the DSMC Reception. Secondly, you can post your slip to us, or fax it to the Medical Stores. Alternatively, if you have access to MOSS, via the DSMC team site you can send an electronic form to a Pharmacy Multiuser email account. The dispensary staff check all of these systems twice daily.

**Why does my Repeat take 72 hours to process?**

Prescriptions are legal documents which the authorising Doctor must sign before they can be dispensed by the dispensary staff. Once we receive a request, we check your medical records to ensure there is no over/under usage; that the review date has not passed; and the issue limit has not been reached. We then issue the medications, print the prescription. These then get passed to the responsible MO who then has to do their own checks, sign and pass the prescription back to the dispensing staff. The dispensary then has to collect the medication, dispense them from the system, annotate the paperwork, and get a second check. This is when the medication will be bagged and ready to go. Overall, this process takes around 72 hours… if there are no problems. If there are complications, such as the review date has expired, the dispensary team will endeavour to call and explain the case. Please ensure that all contact details on JPA are correct otherwise we cannot contact you in a timely manner.

The Dispensary and Medical Stores Team endeavour to provide a timely and exemplary service to all of our patients and we would welcome any thoughts you may have on how we can improve any aspect of this. Contact details for Sgt Bull, Pharmacy Manager, can be located on the DSMC Team Site.
Wiltshire has 30 children's centres located across the county offering families of 0 - 5 year olds a variety of services which are free to access.

Services offered from centres do vary, but will include:

- Information, advice and support
- Early years provision in the centre or nearby
- Family support services
- Links with local childminders
- Easy access to child and family health services, including antenatal services
- Support for children and parents with special needs
- Links with Jobcentre Plus, local training providers, further and higher education institutions
- Messy play, rhyme time sessions etc.

For more information on your local children's centre and the services they provide contact the centre leader on the numbers opposite:

**Sure Start Children's Centres**

- Caine Children's Centre Tel: 01249 821247
- Corsham Children's Centre Tel: 01249 716254
- Cricklade Children's Centre Tel: 01794 769197
- King's Rise Children's Centre, Chippenham Tel: 01249 445288
- Malmesbury Children's Centre Tel: 01666 625537
- Spring Rise Children's Centre, Chippenham Tel: 01249 465040
- The Rise Children's Centre, Chippenham Tel: 01249 465046
- Wootton Bassett Children's Centre Tel: 01793 651224

**East Wiltshire**
- Devizes North Children's Centre Tel: 01380 729091
- Devizes South Children's Centre Tel: 01380 729091
- Pewsey Children's Centre Tel: 01672 562351
- The Corner House Children's Centre, Marlborough Tel: 01672 513010
- Wiltshire Mill Children's Centre, Tidworth Tel: 01980 640910

**South Wiltshire**
- Balfour Children's Centre Tel: 01980 632560
- Clearbury Children's Centre Tel: 01725 512413
- Elm Children's Centre, Salisbury Tel: 0333 4443546
- Five Wishes Children's Centre, Amesbury Tel: 01950 677218
- Mere Children's Centre Tel: 01985 861108
- Little Polly Children's Centre Tel: 01722 414309
- Salisbury City Children's Centre Tel: 01722 323208
- Tisbury Children's Centre Tel: 01747 870345
- Wilton Children's Centre Tel: 01747 870070

**West Wiltshire**
- Balfour Children's Centre, Trowbridge Tel: 01225 762274
- Bradford on Avon Children's Centre Tel: 01225 661184
- King's Park Children's Centre, Melksham Tel: 01225 707700
- Langford Community Children's Centre, Trowbridge Tel: 01225 784482
- Joanna Children's Centre, Melksham Tel: 01225 795025
- Studley Green Children's Centre, Trowbridge Tel: 01225 719763
- Happy Feet Children's Centre, Warminster Tel: 01985 224090
- White Horse Children's Centre, Wantley Tel: 01793 625933

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- Qualified and professional staff team
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**Bright Horizons Family Solutions**

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Eyesham Park, North Leigh, Witney, OX28 6PR

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- We are now offering Nursery care Mon-Fri 8am-3pm
- 15 hours free flexible childcare, additional hours can be paid for. Your child can come full time if you wish
- Children can start immediately following their 3rd birthday
- Run by fully qualified and experienced Early Years teachers
- Learn through play in a fun environment

For more information please contact:
Tower Hill Community Primary School, Moor Avenue, Witney, OX28 6NB
Tel: 01993 702599

Please visit our website:
www.towerhillcommunityprimaryschool.org.uk
We are justifiably proud of our school and our students. This is a school where the opinions of the community are valued. We expect high standards and have high aspirations for our students. We want our students to be happy, to enjoy their learning, be valued members and achieve beyond their expectations.

Headteacher: Mr Niall McWilliams
Upavon Way
Carterton
Oxon
OX18 1BU
Telephone: 01993 841611
Email: office.4041@ocnmail.net
Website: www.cartertoncc.oxon.sch.uk
Community Matters

Welcome to Community Matters. If you have comments or any contributions please contact, Lin Kennedy, the Community Development Officer (CDO), RAF Brize Norton, Carterton, OX18 3LX. You can also contact Lin on phone numbers 01993 897068 or 07786801107 or by email: BZN-BSW-PMSCDO@mod.uk

For advice and guidance or to assist with any housing welfare issues that you may be encountering contact WO Yvonne Conway the Station Community Support Officer (SCSO) on: 01993 895350 or email: BZN-BSW-PMSSCSOWO@mod.uk. If you require information about anything at all, including being posted in or out, schools, local services or any aspect of living in the area, contact Mel at the Hive on: 01993 895349 or email: BZN-BSW-PMS101@mod.uk. A useful website to find general information about your local area, no matter where, is http://www.upmystreet.com/

For personal and family support contact Emmanuel Walcott or Deborah Brant, SSAFA on: 01993 841497/897251/895494.

Families Consultative Group (FCG)

Regular FCG meetings are held in the Jaggers Bar, Families’ Club which is attended by the Station Commander, members of the Community Support Team, MOD Police, TVP and RAFP. Issues affecting RAF personnel and their families living in Service Family Accommodation (SFA) in the local area are raised and potential solutions discussed. At the last meeting, the following issues were raised:

- Lack of parking.
- Future housing provision.
- Cleanliness and fly tipping around SFA.
- Housing Officer response times.
- Condensation and mould in SFA.

All issues were listened to, discussed and proposed actions agreed. A really strong message that was given by the staff members present was for everyone to report all incidents of crime and fly tipping. The numbers to use are:

- Fly tipping, litter fly posting, dog fouling and abandoned shopping trolleys, contact Street Scene on 01993 861020.
- TVP. Phone 101. Use this number to report a non-emergency crime or to give information to Thames Valley Police. Call 999 in an emergency.

Without information no one can take action, so we all need your help. Please REPORT ALL INCIDENTS.

The next FCG meeting will be held on the 3rd October 2012 at 6.30pm. We look forward to seeing you there.

New Benefits Advice Service in Carterton

Starting on 2 August, a Benefits Advice Officer from West Oxford District Council will be available on a fortnightly basis to give general information and advice on Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit in Carterton to new and existing customers. The service will run alongside the Job Club sessions, but consultations can be in private if required.

The sessions run from 9.30-1.00pm on alternate Thursdays at the Town Hall, starting on August 2nd then Aug 16th, 30th, Sep 13th, 27th, Oct 11th, 25th, Nov 8th, 22nd, Dec 6th & 20th. It is possible to drop in, but you can also make an appointment by calling 01993 861030 or emailing: carole.kelman@westoxon.gov.uk

There are changes to the rules to Welfare Benefits taking place now which may affect you, so if you are unsure or want to know more, take advantage of this new local service.
Neighbourhood Officer PC Rich Barnes delivers this month’s update:

“The neighbourhood team carried out an Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) operation at RAF Brize Norton on Tuesday 10 July. The operation was the result of a request from the RAF Police and there were numerous seat belt and mobile phone offences. This shows the excellent working relations that exist between the RAF and Thames Valley Police. We have also carried out numerous speed checks this month on the major roads in Carterton and the road running through Shilton.

“The youth club continues to have a Wednesday drop in session now that the summer holidays are here. The club will be running a week of activities from 6-10 August from Jaggers Bar on Stanmore Crescent by the old SPAR shop.

“Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) during the evenings is still relatively quiet. There have been a few instances of ASB which have been quickly dealt with by us. However, we have received reports of youths playing football around parked cars in some areas. There are many parks around Carterton, Bampton and Burford so please use those rather than kicking a ball or other objects close to cars.

“A man admitted to taking four chairs from a rear garden in Carterton. The chairs were found on the Carterton Community College Grounds. The team found several youths and older people camping out and one of their number admitted to taking the chairs. The chairs have been returned, an Adult Restorative Detection will be actioned and the person in question will personally apologise to the victim.

“Another male was found to have caused criminal damage to some Burford Secondary School equipment. The youth admitted his involvement in the offence and was given a Youth Restorative Detection.

“And finally, PCSO Ross Windsor asked for some assistance from the Carterton Community College in raising funds for service charities whilst doing the plane pull at RAF Brize Norton. The College agreed to hold a non-uniform day and all proceeds were donated to charity. Well done Ross and the College.”

Table Top & Car Boot Sales are to be held at the Carterton Community Centre from 9am -12noon on the following dates:
Saturday 15th September
Saturday 13th October
Saturday 10th November
Table/car boot pitch costs £5 private/£10 trade. To book your place please call Gill on 01993 842807 asap as spaces are limited!

Cafe will be open, admission is free so pop along to get yourself a bargain then relax in our friendly cafe with a drink & something to eat.

Saturday 1st December
We are holding our annual Christmas Craft & Gift Fair inside the Community Centre on Saturday 1st December from 10am-3pm. Admission is free and the cafe will be open. We have over 30 fantastic stalls with handmade crafts and lots of other great Christmas gift ideas.

At the same time outside on Marigold Square we are having a Continental Market!

So this should be a great opportunity to get into the festive spirit & sort out those Christmas gifts!

Please come along & support our events. We look forward to seeing you there.

Volunteering
Do you enjoy cooking?
Do you have some spare time?
(Approximately 2-3 hours per week)
Would you like to share your cookery skills with a parent and help them to provide healthy meals for their family?

If so, perhaps you would like to become a Cooking Project Volunteer for Carterton Children’s Centre?

For more information, please contact Clare Crossley on 01993 840318 or email clare.crossley@oxfordshire.gov.uk
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Saturday 6th October
10.00am - 12.30pm

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www.st-francis.herts.sch.uk

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From Early years onwards by offering pupils opportunities to enjoy success in a variety of different areas, we broaden horizons and develop self-confidence. They achieve excellent academic results – this summer’s GCSE results were the best ever - and leave us as well-rounded and independent individuals.

Mr Stephen Oliver, the new Principal, says “OLA has a unique spirit that allows all its pupils to flourish, not only academically but also as individuals with particular gifts and talents. I was attracted by this and by the energetic way the school has moved towards full co-education in the last few years, building on its former success as an all-girls’ school. OLA has a lovely atmosphere that all who visit comment on, and something I was immediately struck by when I first came to the school. There is a real family feel, and as the new Principal I have been made to feel very welcome by all parts of the school community, from parents to governors and staff to pupils. I believe that the breadth of education at OLA, combined with a strong spiritual underpinning and cultural depth, is crucial in a world where these qualities can be in short supply. OLA pupils stand out for these reasons and I feel privileged to have been given the opportunity to lead the school into the future.”

Why not come along and meet him, the OLA team and our pupils at our Open Morning on Saturday 13 October 10.00am-1.00pm? For those interested in joining our Sixth Form there is a Sixth Form Open Evening on Tuesday 9 October at 7.30pm.

Our Lady’s Abingdon
Radley Road, Abingdon, Oxon OX14 3PS
01235 524658

Continuity and Change at OLA

Our Lady’s Abingdon
In order to showcase the photographic talent we have on station, RAF Brize Norton is running a photography competition during Autumn 2012. Open to Service and civilian personnel employed on camp, their dependents, and Air Cadets from Thames Valley Wing, the competition theme is ‘RAF Brize Norton’.

Three separate categories are available to enter up to 5 photos: Under 13, Under 18 and Open (over 18). Judged by the Station Commander, the best photos from each category will be compiled into a 2013 RAF Brize Norton Calendar, with proceeds going to station charities. Winning photos will feature in Global Gateway early in January 2013, with the photo judged to be ‘Photo of the Year’ used as the cover shot for that issue. Category winners will also receive a framed print of their photograph, presented by the station commander. Anyone whose photo is used in the calendar will receive a free copy.

The competition opens on 3 September 2012 (for age category purposes), although photos taken before this date may be submitted. Full details (including conditions of entry, exhibit certificates and required model releases) may be found on scrolling news or under the ‘Clubs and Sports’ MOSS page. Please email brizephoto@gmail.com with any queries. All entries should be sent on a cd with accompanying documentation to “Photo Competition, Media Office, RAF Brize Norton, Carterton, Oxfordshire, OX18 3LX” to arrive no later than Thursday 15 November 2012.

Ben Lonsdale
OIC Stn Photography Club
UP FOR A CHALLENGE?

Take up one of our challenges in 2013 and help us to support a range of amazing people.

From trekking the Inca Trail to climbing Mount Kilimanjaro or throwing yourself out of an aircraft at 10,000 feet there are plenty of challenges to test your stamina and your nerves.

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Entitled deployed personnel can top-up the private side of their WelComE account whilst serving on operational duty overseas.
Back in April this year, the latest addition to the RAF’s air transport fleet took to the skies from RAF Brize Norton, piloted by two Sponsored Reservists from AirTanker Services.

The flight, which had been eagerly anticipated for many weeks, was rostered, prepared and dispatched by joint military and civilian teams working out of the AirTanker Hub, and as it progressed it was monitored by a purpose-built hi-tech operations room. Behind banks of computer screens, AirTanker Services personnel could record every aspect of the aircraft’s performance, and by 2016 they’ll be able to do so for 14 aircraft on global operations.

Over in the Training Centre, the fresh batch of pilots on No 10 Squadron were immersed in the Airbus Computer-Based-Training (CBT) course - a two week course that is designed to teach you how to operate one of the world’s most complicated airliners. For pilots like myself, with a background of rather more traditional 1960s technology in the form of the VC10, the course highlights just how much things have changed in the last 20 years.

Without any previous Airbus experience, the RAF personnel are unashamedly soaking up as much information and knowledge as possible. Even to the hardened sceptic, the Private Finance Initiative under which AirTanker is supplying a 24-year tanking capability to the MoD is an exciting venture, and one which has gathered together a lot of experience from UK Airbus operators. Naturally it’s also brought personnel from airlines, training centres, Airbus Military, AirTanker, the Civil Aviation Authority, Military Airworthiness Authority, and the RAF together in the kind of partnering approach that has never before been tried by the MoD.

There were, of course, plenty of sceptical remarks from those who had been around when all of those organisations first came together. From a squadron member’s perspective, the teething troubles that had emerged over the last year seemed to be very much under control. Indeed, within the modern and well-equipped interior of the AirTanker Hub there is a positive upbeat attitude, and the kind of squadron ethos that many places would aspire to.
For some months previously, Voyager, as it is now known, had been towed around the airfield to stop its tyres turning into squares. Then, shortly after its first flight from Brize it had to be sent away for scheduled servicing, no doubt much to the amusement of plenty of people on base. Minor technical issues emerged during the shakedown period, and on-going problems with Air-to-Air refuelling equipment still plagued test pilots at Airbus and Boscombe Down. In the Hub, however, the upbeat personnel were undeterred and the pilots of number 2 course were preparing to head to sunnier climes to complete A330 simulator training at the Gulf Aviation Academy in Bahrain.

The AirTanker Training Centre, tucked away beyond Base Hangar, is already the new home to one of the most advanced airliner simulators in the world, and from October when certification and military conversion is complete, Voyager pilots will have world-class training facility on their doorstep. In the meantime, however, 10 Squadron pilots have been making use of A330 simulators at Heathrow and Bahrain for initial type-training and currency. Meanwhile, teams of cabin crew have undergone training with Bmi at Heathrow, in preparation for their work on the RAF's newest passenger transport aircraft.

Today, some five months on from that historic first flight, the 10 Sqn–AirTanker partnership is developing well. The process of cascading training to the current flight-deck and cabin crew is the main focus of an enormously dedicated team, and a daunting task given that the RAF is effectively starting from scratch. The question of “who teaches the first guy?” is not unfamiliar. AirTanker's small number of experienced reservist pilots are flying around the clock to get 10 Squadron's first batch of pilots up to 'Combat Ready' status, and by the time this edition goes to press the Squadron should already be operating Voyager fully crewed with RAF personnel.

To the outside world, of course, Voyager's somewhat steady introduction to RAF service may have seemed rather low-key, and despite having completed in excess of 100 RAF sorties in its first three months, there is still a long way to go before the aircraft takes over a significant proportion of the MoD's transport requirement. Inside the Hub, however, where embedded RAF personnel work alongside their civilian counterparts, the feeling is very much of 'the calm before the storm'; taking every opportunity to get the entire Voyager operation working perfectly before more aircraft, and people, arrive. When that might be is the question on everybody's lips – particularly the small number of qualified pilots who have been clocking up as many as 60 hours flying each month on a single aircraft!

The expansion of Voyager and 10 Squadron is undoubtedly just around the corner. The next A330 registered to AirTanker is due to be operational in early December, with the third - a military registered aircraft for the RAF – in January 2013. By then, the Voyager simulator will have been up and running for several months and the new intake of pilots to 10 Sqn will be busy in the AirTanker Training Centre. It won’t be long before those banks of computers in the Ops room will be put to good use and the classrooms of the Training Centre will, no doubt, echo to the sounds of the annoying computer-generated Canadian voice describing how standby instruments simply aren’t required on the aircraft of today.
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For more info on Airplay groups and activities contact James Leverton, Station Youth Worker, on 07423283241 or email: james.leverton@4children.org.uk or pop in to The Allandale, Burford Road, Carterton during a session.

All activities are held in the Allandale, and are open to all young people in the Carterton area.
Syria, Iran, Israel, the ‘Middle East’ are constantly in the news, following hot on the heels of Iraq, Afghanistan and Libya. Yet have you considered the history of the region and the link between today’s current events and all that God lays out in the bible?

As we come into the season of remembering those who gave their lives for our country, with Battle of Britain (Sep) and Remembrance (Nov), and as we continue to welcome back our fallen comrades as repatriations continue through Brize Norton, we’d do well to remember Abraham Lincoln’s words at the Gettysburg address during the American Civil War:

“It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us - that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.”

Yet 3000 years before Abraham Lincoln, another Abraham brought about the birth of a different nation. At the age of 99, God promised that Abraham would be the ‘Father of many nations’ - "I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make you into nations, and kings shall come from you" (Genesis 17:6).

Abraham is instructed to leave the place of his birth ('Ur of the Chaldeans' - in Southern Iraq) and is promised the land of Canaan (modern Israel) (via Haran, probably in Turkey). And yet, even when the ancient nation of Israel/Judea is crushed and expelled God promises that it will have its’ land returned. That happened as recently as 1948 when the modern nation of Israel was reinstated under a UN resolution.

We’d do well to remember that God is faithful to his promises he was to Abraham and to Israel, and likewise he promised his Son to us, - and delivered. Jesus, who we also remember, ultimately also gave his life for us: “Greater love hath no man than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.” (John 15:13)

Maybe in this season of remembrance, we should take the words of Abraham Lincoln and apply to our nation: “that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain - that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom.”

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