

Citation for  
The Honourable Company of Gloucestershire's  
Air Training Corps (RAF Cadets) Unit Award 2019

649 (Dursley) Squadron ATC

649 (Dursley) Squadron prides itself on its inclusive approach, developing an internal community ethos, and currently provides mainstream activities for three cadets with autism. Over the year, 649 Squadron's cadets have developed their involvement with the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme. It is in conjunction with this scheme that the unit has enhanced its community involvement, with 27 cadets actively participating in the scheme, with ten likely to complete Bronze this year, three with Silver, and one is close to completing the Gold Award. During May 19, the unit entered into partnership with the Great Western Air Ambulance, allowing 649 Squadron cadets to accrue volunteering time for their Silver and Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award. 649 Squadron cadets gained a unique insight into the working of the Air Ambulance, its integration with other services, and they assisted with local fundraising events.

649 Squadron is a regular feature of community events, year round. These often start early March with Spring and Easter festivals, to supporting local Christmas lights switch-on events. In addition, 649 Squadron has taken part in the following community events during 2018-19; Elver Eating, Vale Hospital Fete, Little Vintage Show, Berkeley Castle Marshalling, Slimbridge Parish Festival, Frampton Sheep Racing, Gloucester Salutes, Uley Fireworks, Dursley festival. More recently 649 Squadron has also negotiated with the Dursley's Historical and Heritage group to display in the local Council offices, an exhibition of the history of 649 Squadron. This display will be in a prominent position and greatly improve the visibility of 649 Squadron in the community. In addition, 649 Squadron can often be seen on ceremonial duties for Battle of Britain and Remembrance as well as providing personnel for the annual Wing Parade to remember the communities both past and present.

Not only have the cadets assisted in the running of events, cadets have been proactive in helping the public. One recent, notable event happened during extremely hot weather when two members of the public suffering from the effects of the heat were rendered unconscious. Squadron personnel were able to offer immediate practical assistance providing first aid and the means to cool the casualties. Using the cadet radio network, Squadron personnel co-ordinated efforts to guide ambulances from a main road to the casualties' location. The cadets involved demonstrated the value of their training to great effect. This was a proud moment for all concerned.

For their striving to be integral to the wider Community, their contributions to the Dursley Community, as well as demonstrating practical, live-saving assistance to others is why 649 (Dursley) Squadron has been awarded the Honourable Company of Gloucestershire's Air Training Corps (RAF Cadets) Unit Award for 2019.