

## **RAF Shawbury Helicopter Liaison Group Newsletter for Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin Parish & Town Councils**

**Introduction from the  
Station Commander  
RAF Shawbury, Wing  
Commander A G Jones MSc  
BSc IEng MIET MCMi RAF.**



Welcome to this first RAF Shawbury Helicopter Liaison Group Newsletter. As many of you will be aware, our Number 1 Flying Training School (No 1 FTS) operates under the UK Military Flying Training System to provide helicopter aircrew for the Royal Navy, British Army and Royal Air Force. Our positive engagement with communities across our low-flying area is critical to us achieving the permissive flying environment we need to train operationally focussed helicopter aircrew. A mutually supportive relationship between RAF Shawbury and Town and Parish Councils, representing all communities and residents, is very much the cornerstone of this.

One of the challenges of such engagement is reaching everyone – in our case some 200 Parish and Town Councils. In a 'new approach' Helicopter Liaison Group, we will provide a Newsletter to you in September and March every year.

This will cover a look at our flying and engagement activity over the previous six months and a look ahead to any significant events coming up. We will also underline in these Newsletters our contact details for low-flying complaints and general engagement enquiries. Should Parish or Town Councils wish to discuss any particular issues directly, then I am very happy for myself or the most appropriate unit Executive to attend any regional meetings accordingly.

Thank you most sincerely for your continued support to RAF Shawbury.

*Al Jones*

### **Did you Know?**

To support our neighbours, all RAF Shawbury courses undertake community projects. We see this as an important aspect of the trainee's personal development and to contribute where we can to our neighbours, near and far. During 2023, some 18 community projects were undertaken, ranging from village litter picks to supporting a significant habitat restoration on an historical site. The Praise Bee Hunkington Manor Project is a remote medieval moated site, with some areas not accessed for 500 years. Our trainees cleared overgrown areas and planted over 1400 indigenous plants and flowers to develop a natural habitat for wildflowers and wildlife.



Hunkington Bee Community Project

### **Support to Young People**

RAF Shawbury is justifiably proud of the support it provides to Cadet Forces. In 2023, the proactive Air Cadet Liaison Team organised four shooting events, five weeks of Annual Camp and 39 other events, which involved a total of 1123 cadets and Cadet Force Adult Volunteers. The Station also continues to inspire young people across Shropshire and neighbouring counties through its STEM programme, with No 1 FTS dedicating 63 hours of static aircraft in support of outreach visits. On six occasions aircrew landed the Juno in local playing fields to engage with children and young adults, fostering young peoples' interests in aviation, engineering, and Defence.



The STEM team visiting a local primary school

### **Charity and Good Causes**

During 2023 RAF Shawbury personnel raised £8,718 for its three nominated charities of: Shrewsbury Homes for All; We are Veterans; and Restart Africa. Additionally, personnel raised a further £9,113 for Service and local charities and played a key role in the Shrewsbury Royal British Legion (RBL) Poppy Appeal in November which raised an impressive £23,143 in the County town. The vibrant pace of raising money for charity has continued into 2024, including hosting a *First Night at the*

*Proms Tribute to Film Music*, including a performance from special guest Lucy Illingworth. This single event has raised over £25,000 for Scotty's Little Soldiers and our nominated charities for 2024.



RAF Shawbury trainees at the Shrewsbury RBL Collection

## RAF Shawbury Flying Operations

### Where we fly

RAF Shawbury aircraft and visitors fly in an area known as Low Flying Area 9 (LFA 9). Our area utilizes a variety of training areas, providing a perfect training environment for our crews. We primarily support the activity of No 1 Flying Training School aircraft, but we also have many visitors from all three Services, who establish a base out of Station Operations to conduct a mixture of flying disciplines to prepare for Operations worldwide.

### Why do we Low Fly?

There is a continuing need for helicopter aircrew to train regularly at low level, by day and by night. Low flying is a highly perishable skill which can only be maintained through rigorous training and continuous practice in a realistic environment. The routine transit height for helicopters is 100 ft above ground level (AGL), however because of their role, helicopters may operate down to ground level for specific activities.

### Support to Cosford Air Show

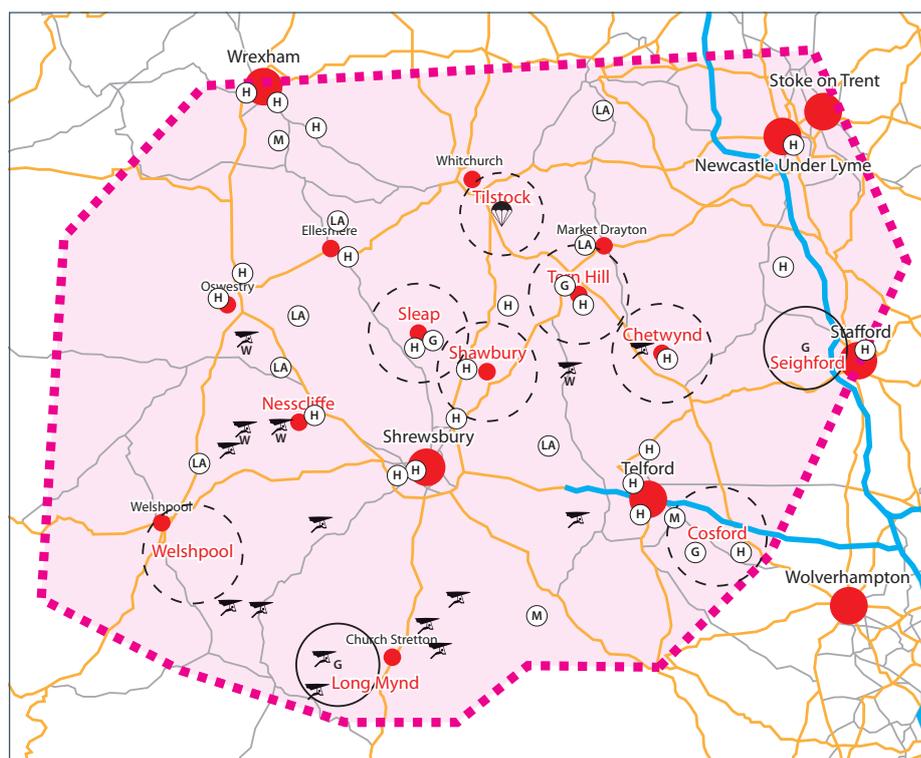
Every year RAF Shawbury provides support to Cosford Air Show through a wide variety of services including, Air Traffic Control, Fuel, Transport, Accommodation and Catering. Planning for the show starts in earnest, straight after the show finishes, with the organisers expecting between 50,000 – 60,000 visitors each year.

## Flying Statistics

Both Juno and Jupiter aircraft continue to delivery Aircrew training for Tri-Service personnel. For the period 1 Mar – 31 Aug 24, the following hours were flown:

Day Flying Hours	7500
Night Flying Hours	688
Total Flying Hours	8188

## LFA 9



## Our Contact Details

Low Flying Complaints Email:  
**SHY-LowFlying@mod.gov.uk**

Low Flying Complaints Telephone:  
**01939 251712**

Engagement and Media  
General Enquiries: **SHY-EngagementMediaTeam@modgovuk.onmicrosoft.com**



RAF Shawbury supporting front line training aircraft and the RAF Cosford Air Show