

# CATTERICK GARRISON GAZETTE

PUBLISHED EVERY OTHER MONTH

ISSUE 213 MAY-JUNE 2025

NEWS AND FEATURES FROM CATTERICK,  
RIPON, TOPCLIFFE AND DISHFORTH



**AJAX ARRIVES IN CATTERICK**

**THE GREAT TOMMY SLEEP OUT FRIDAY 14TH MARCH**

**CARNAGILL PRIMARY SCHOOL, CATTERICK GARRISON**



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## FROM THE EDITOR:

Welcome to this edition of the Catterick Garrison Gazette.

Within this edition of the Garrison Gazette, we have a series of military articles covering topics that range from Royal Lancers training in the first AJAX in Yorkshire to the British Army Band's Boxing Night. We also have articles reporting the great work of local community groups, as well as news from local schools who are so much part of Garrison life.

I would like to thank the Garrison community 'military and civilian' who continue to support the Gazette and wider Catterick Garrison events.

I hope the articles have inspired you to pen a submission for the coming editions of the Gazette highlighting your individual or organisations endeavours. Should you wish to submit an article for the September/October edition of the Garrison Gazette, please email [CatterickGar-iHub-GpMailbox@mod.gov.uk](mailto:CatterickGar-iHub-GpMailbox@mod.gov.uk) by Friday 05th September 2025.

**Kind regards,**  
**Maj B Udy**  
**COS HQ Catterick Garrison**



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**Please send any correspondence to:**  
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Submit articles in electronic form – on CD.  
Include high quality digital images where possible.  
Please keep the text and images separate.

**FRONT COVER:**

**ARES' first drive on Catterick Training Area**



# AJAX ARRIVES IN CATTERICK

CJ Smith, Regimental Signals Officer

**T**he first AJAX arrived in Yorkshire with the Royal Lancers (Queen Elizabeths' Own) in Catterick Garrison in late November 2024. Now the Regiment are training on the vehicle on Catterick Training Area.

AJAX, the Army's brand-new reconnaissance vehicle, is state of the art technology. It brings to bear better lethality, mobility and protection than any armoured vehicle the Army has ever seen. Most impressively, it employs a multitude of sensors to detect and understand the enemy from miles away. The AJAX then intelligently synthesises this data and connects to other platforms to push the vital information across the battlefield. The result of this process is that commanders have a plethora of high-quality information at their disposal, allowing them to make better decisions.

It was a murky day in North Yorkshire when the heavy equipment transporter finally arrived at Cambrai Barracks and the Regiment's first AJAX reversed, slowly off the back. In the period that followed before Christmas everyone was full of anticipation for the exciting training that lay ahead. From trooper to lieutenant colonel, all ranks have been keen to get to grips with it.

As the first to convert, A Squadron spent most of the winter shuttling between Catterick and Salisbury Plain. They simultaneously maintained their ever-growing fleet of 11 AJAX in Catterick, while making best use of the training infrastructure that surrounds Salisbury Plain. Now able to train on Catterick Training Area, A Squadron are



The Netball Team competed in its first competition this winter.

putting their vehicles through their paces in North Yorkshire. They will deploy on the vehicle as early as September 2025.

Meanwhile, a quick turnaround for B Squadron after their return from operations abroad in November 2024 saw them deploy again in March 2025. This time within the confines of the UK. On Operation LAZURITE, B Squadron are supporting Afghan refugees, who worked alongside the British Army throughout their time in Afghanistan, to settle into their new life in the UK. Concurrently to their preparation for Operation LAZURITE, both B and HQ Squadrons have also been training to deploy as the UK Standby Battalion for Operation TEMPERER. As part of this latter operation, they will stand ready to support civilian authorities in times of emergency and national crisis. On their

return from UK operations, B Squadron will follow the route proven by A Squadron towards their own AJAX conversion.

Since October 2024, C Squadron have been deployed on Operation ELGIN in Kosovo. As the reconnaissance arm of NATO's Kosovo Force, they seek to understand emerging issues within, and threats to, the tiny Balkan nation. They will return in April and will begin their own conversion to AJAX late in 2025.

In between everything, Lancers have still found time to play winter sport via a HQ Squadron skiing expedition. They have also competed against other regiments in British Army Warrior Fitness, netball, cross country and many other sports this winter.



The team picture from the HQ Squadron skiing expedition to the Alps.



C Squadron took part in the DANCON march, a 36 kilometre weighted march organised by the Danish contingent of the KOSOVO FORCE in Kosovo.



ARES' first drive on Catterick Training Area.



The Regiment's organic drone capability will truly make the lancers a '3D effector'.

# CHRISTMAS CONCERTS

LCpl Smith

**L**eading up to Christmas, Band Catterick performed two standout concerts, in Leeds and Richmond respectively.

The performance at Morley Town Hall, Leeds, on Friday 6th December was a ticketed affair, with proceeds going forward to the RCAM Corps Trust. The band made use of the venue's concert series and reputation to raise a sizeable crowd: the hall frequently attracts many of the country's top civilian brass bands.

Some highlights of the concert included solo items: LCpl Brown's rendition of *Candlelight Carol* on euphonium and Musn Thompson's solo horn version of *In the Bleak Midwinter* were both poignant moments, while LCpl Innes's performance of *Bass in the Ballroom*

was full of character, showing the versatility of the Bb bass – an instrument not often utilised in a solo context.

Musn Thompson's performance was a reprise of a piece from a recording session which the band completed earlier in the year. The concert also featured various other pieces from the same project; recordings can be found on the RCAM trust website and are free to access.

The concert, conducted by Director of Music Capt Ben Ruffer and guest conductor SSgt David Hamilton, from the Band of the Prince of Wales, was a resounding success, with many compliments from the audience. As a final show of versatility, the encore of *Into the Unknown* featured the Small Contemporary Band (SCB), the rock band capability built into the marching brass band.

The concert at St Mary's Church, Richmond, on the following Monday (9th December) was a packed-out audience, with a great deal of local appetite for this annual event. The programme remained mostly unchanged, but with the return of the band's own Bandmaster, SSgt Greg Waters.

A highlight of this concert was the addition of the *12 Days of Christmas*, complete with audience participation. In-particular, thanks for participation in this item go to attendees from the Corps – the Principal Director of Music and Corps Bandmaster – and the family of Capt Ruffer.

The concert (and the positive feedback from both the band's hierarchy and the audience) made for a thoroughly enjoyable experience for all involved, allowing the band to depart into Christmas leave on a positive note, ready to return for the next set of engagements in the new year.

# RECRUITING MATTERS

LCpl Souter

**O**n 2nd February, British Army Band Catterick travelled to Millom, Cumbria, to undertake a recruitment event for young musicians in the area. This event included workshops with young musicians, a presentation with a Q&A, and band rehearsals, followed by a joint concert with Holborn Hill Royal Brass Band Juniors.

The Band Engagement Team (BET) works year-round to achieve an output of engaging with the British Army's 'main target audience', and ultimately, recruitment. Hosting open days, academies, and visiting schools throughout the year, all in effort of

inspiring and recruiting for all trades in the British Army.

This engagement was no different, with the BET arriving ahead of the remainder of the band to conduct workshops and provide tutoring to the young musicians. LCpl Ellen Smith had a one-to-one with an enthusiastic 9-year-old percussionist, whilst other members of the team worked with different sections of the youth band. They guided them through the repertoire and helped them to hone their skills ready for the evening performance.

The team then delivered a recruitment presentation, informing its recipients of all trades and routes into

the British Army. The young musicians had a lot of questions: "Is basic training hard? I don't know if I'd be able to do it.", "Do you sign up for life?". The BET put their worries to rest and explained all aspects of our job, and what a career in the British Army entails.

Following an afternoon of more rehearsals, the musicians prepared for their evening concert. The shining black boots, gleaming white belts, and famous scarlet tunics with golden detail stunned the youth band. The venue was filled to the brim and the concert was a success, with Millom's very own LCpl Bailey making a feature by performing the second and third movements of Denis Wright's Cornet Concerto.



# HARROGATE BOXING NIGHT

Cpl Mitchell

**B**ritish Army Band Catterick were thrilled to provide musical support for the 2025 Harrogate AFC intercompany junior soldier boxing championships. After the formalities, and before a punch was thrown, British Army Band Catterick were formed up around the boxing ring in anticipation to perform the Rocky Theme, 'Gonna fly Now'.

Dressed in Scarlett and Gold ceremonials, dazzling under the arena lights, Bandmaster SSgt Greg Waters, was positioned inside the boxing ring, ready to bring the band to attention and start the

musical element of the evening. The recognisable theme of 'Gonna fly now' rallied the audience, energising the crowd into clapping, cheering, and dancing. The music featured solos from Soprano cornet player LCpl Ashely Marston and Guitarist Cpl Gram Mitchell, with the latter performing high up on the balcony in the spotlight, intensifying the music and atmosphere.

After the interval, Band Catterick were marched into position around the boxing ring by snare drummer, SSgt Ian Charlton. With the audience pumped up from the first half of boxing, this was the perfect opportunity to showcase the next element of musical support from

the band, performing two brass band arrangements of 'Don't Stop Me Now' and 'I Want to Break Free' by Queen. Featuring solo guitarist, Cpl Gram Mitchell, setting the stage for the next instalment of boxing.

To finish a monumental night of camaraderie, courage, and selfless commitment, British Army Band Catterick performed the National Anthem.

Overall, in a night where every punch and decision are felt, the musical support provided by British Army Band Catterick contributed significantly to the atmosphere and excitement of the evening.

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The school's exceptional facilities, including an Olympic-standard athletics track, indoor heated swimming pool, and flood-lit sports pitches, show the focus is not just on academics, but also on

developing leadership, life skills, and fostering an active lifestyle. The school's military heritage is embedded in its ethos, promoting community, teamwork, and a sense of responsibility that shapes students into well-rounded, capable individuals.

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# Army&You

### Army&You magazine

AFF's award-winning magazine, Army&You, containing news, features, interviews, reviews and much more, is delivered four times a year to Army families in the UK and overseas. Go to [armyandyou.co.uk](https://armyandyou.co.uk) or find it on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter @ArmyandYou

# Forces Families Jobs

### Forces Families Jobs

This is a tri-Service jobs platform, which links spouses, partners and family members of serving UK military personnel with Forces-friendly employers and training organisations, as well as providing access to careers information. [forcesfamiliesjobs.co.uk](https://forcesfamiliesjobs.co.uk)

Army Families Federation is a charitable incorporated organisation registered in England and Wales with registered charity number 1176393 and a charity registered in Scotland with registered charity number SC048282 having its principal office at IDL 414, Floor 1, Zone 6, Ramillies Building, Marlborough Lines, Monxton Road, Andover SP11 8HJ



# THE HIVE



On behalf of the Chain of Command Army HIVE delivers information support for the whole military community on a wide variety of topics affecting your everyday Service and personal life, including relocation, accommodation, health and wellbeing, childcare and education, employment, finance, deployment, resettlement, and the local area.

The service is free and available wherever you are in the world. HIVE staff can research information on your behalf and are also able to provide confidential signposting to further sources of support.

If you're considering overseas postings or already at post, the iHIVE (International HIVE) also provides location-specific guides and information.

If you're Service Personnel, a partner or wider family member, veteran or MOD civilian, HIVE support is available face-to-face through a worldwide network of Information Centres and also online. Find out more:



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## Your Local HIVE is: Catterick

AWS Hipswell Lodge, Richmond Road, DL9 3AX

## Your local Area HIVE Information Support Officer is: Lisa Whittles

RC-Pers-HIVE-NorthHub-0Mailbox@mod.gov.uk

Tel: 01748 872944

[www.Armyhiveinfo.blogspot.com](http://www.Armyhiveinfo.blogspot.com)

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# MILITARY WAGS CHOIR

Written by Debbie Gatrill, Choir Chair

**T**he Military WAGS Choir, following an impressive year in 2024, which saw them perform in Richmond Town Hall for their Spring Concert, hold a Cream Tea and Tunes street party style concert to mark DDay 80th Anniversary to a packed out Garrison Memorial Church, sing in Durham Cathedral for the Army Benevolent's Fund Festival of Remembrance and host a sold out Christmas Concert, is set to continue its tradition of uplifting performances and community engagement in 2025.

This year, the choir is preparing for a series of exciting events, including their Spring Concert at Richmond Town Hall on May 8th, (tickets of which can be bought using the QR code or on the door) and a spectacular collaborative performance with the Cleveland Philharmonic Choir, the Royal Signals Northern Band, and the Service Children's Community Choir at the Princess Alexandra

Auditorium at Yarm School on June 1st. A fabulous family event!

Tickets for this event can easily be bought through the box office at Princess Alexandra Auditorium, details of which can be found on the poster, on their Facebook page Military WAGS Choir Catterick plus their website.

Further events can also be found there:

[www.militarywagschoir.co.uk](http://www.militarywagschoir.co.uk)

These events not only celebrate the choir's musical talent but also highlight the unity and resilience of the military community. The choir has become a cornerstone of camaraderie and emotional support, providing a welcoming space for members to share experiences and build lasting friendships.

They hold various social events too, including regular coffee mornings that they host at Richmond Town Hall, pub quizzes, dinners at various restaurants and a weekend away in North Wales.

They warmly invite new members to join them at their rehearsals, held on Thursday evenings at the Garrison Memorial Church, offering an inclusive atmosphere with no audition required and a free creche available for parents. They meet from 5pm for a brew and catch up in the annex next to the church before heading across to the church for a 6pm start. The choir is led by Ben Noble, a professional baritone singer, who brings a wealth of experience and knowledge, but above all, a sense of humour! The ladies leave with a spring in their step eagerly looking forward to the next week.

The choir is open to all ladies with a military connection, be that through family members or working in a military establishment. If you are unsure that you meet the criteria, please feel free to contact through enquiries@militarywagschoir.co.uk or via their mobile 07977 162823. You will be made to feel very welcome. Bring a friend along too!





# THE GREAT TOMMY SLEEP OUT

## FRIDAY 14TH MARCH

A group of HQ Staff completed a full 12 hour sleep out on 14th March to raise money for the homeless veterans, sponsored by the RBL. Tesco kindly allowed us to use their car park and facilities

and we had a prime spot to get seen by shoppers raising awareness for this charity. It was a very cold night, temperatures in single digits and frost and ice appeared early morning.

We were overwhelmed by the amount of interest and kind offers of goodies from passing public who were genuinely interested in our efforts.

A total sum of £875 was raised to date with more donations still coming in!



Lisa Whittles & Rebecca Weatherstone - HIVE  
Jenny Baxter, Jane Keen and Kaza Hollinshead - HQ Catterick Garrison.

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### LYNN MURRAY BSC (HONS) NURSING STUDIES (MENTAL HEALTH)

Lynn served in the army for 24 years before she decided to complete a formal qualification in an area where she can help ex-serving personnel with their mental health recovery.

**'I would absolutely recommend Teesside to serving members of the military or those that have left. At the time of enrolling, I didn't quite appreciate the support that I would be given throughout this course.'**



### MATTHEW POTTS BSC (HONS) GAMES DEVELOPMENT

Matthew was a Lance Corporal combat medic in the Royal Army Medical Corps in the army, where he served for six years.

**'I'm looking forward to working on projects independently and with other students in the hope of publishing them, and all being well, I aim to set up my own game studio.'**

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# THE FOLD

**The Fold is situated just outside Croft on Tees in 78 acres of farm land, woodland and gardens. It is the perfect place to relax and engage in traditional crafts, make new friends and enjoy organic food, refreshments and cake. The Fold opened its doors in 2021 and has had incredible support from all the Charities funding our programmes.**

It all started in 2012, down at what is now the Clervaux Garden School, where we worked with military and local families, one Saturday a month. This was funded by the Armed Forces Covenant fund, then called the Armed Forces Community Covenant Fund. With this funding we were able to put on 17 days family day. The deployment at this time was to Afghanistan, which meant that many families were in need of this vital support. The sessions were very successful and we received another year of funding to carry on.

In October 2019 we were able to move into our new building which was funded by the Chancellor using Libor Funds. This made the world of difference to us, it meant we had our own space where we could put more courses on, then we had the disappointment of not opening due to Covid.

Big celebrations once we could all get together again and the Fold was officially opened by our local MP Rishi Sunak then the Chancellor of the Exchequer. Since then, the Fold has flourished, offering all kinds of different heritage crafts on our courses. The courses we run during the week are as follows;

Mondays, (10am – 3pm) are for ladies that need a bit of time for themselves, have been through a rough time, are lonely, living with an illness or relocated army wives/partners to find likeminded people. The 'Time to Create' course provides the calming atmosphere that is needed. The crafts we deliver are: wet/dry felting, knitting, Greenwood work, silver jewellery making, sun printing and pottery to name a few.

Tuesdays (10am – 3pm) For veterans and their spouses enjoying similar crafts to a Monday. There is more outside work in the woodlands, this follows on to making a 3-legged stool, walking sticks and spoon carving. They even made a log store. The ladies sometime join the activities outside, the alternative is a textile project, pottery or painting.

Wednesday mornings (10am – 12 noon) there is a Knit and Natter group, wonderful conversations can be had or if you feel like you need to quietly concentrate on your project that is fine too.

We do have visiting craft artists for when we are not able to deliver in house.

Our Saturdays (10am – 3pm) once a month Family Day is getting really busy and we are currently looking for more funding to split the family day and have two per month. We have a great time, refreshments on arrival, out to feed and check the animals, crafts, organic lunch, more play, music and craft. Our Fold playground is now being extended, so as well as the Clervaux Castle there will be a bucket swing and slide all assessable by a new footpath going down into the meadow.



We would like to say a massive thank you to all the funders who have made the journey possible so far, we wouldn't have been able to do it without you.

The Fold was funded by the Chancellor using LIBOR funds HM Treasury

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We do have a Summer Fun Day coming up on Saturday June 28th 10am – 3pm where we will be celebrating Armed Forces Day. Look out for more information on the Clervaux Trust FaceBook page.

If you would like to join us or would like more information, please get in touch with me at the Fold.

Lone Helliwell, The Fold Manager  
Mobile: 07812 234372  
[Lone.helliwell@clervaux.org.uk](mailto:Lone.helliwell@clervaux.org.uk)









# CATTERICK GARRISON FOOTBALL CENTRE

**I**t has been another busy first half of the season at Catterick Garrison Football Centre. We have junior squads from Phase Play (4/5 year olds) through to our under 16s, as well as our thriving Wildcats and Squad Girls groups. We also have our 2 Senior sides and our very popular Dad Bods section.

With player development being the ethos of the club, the coaches and players continue to work hard during training and we have had a lot of positivity on match days. When the 24/25 season comes to an end we are hoping that several teams will be rewarded with some league and cup silverware.

With over 320 registered players it means that most of our groups are full and going forward we are looking at the potential of setting up additional teams at the popular age groups.

At the beginning of the season the club secured a grant of £4000 from North Yorkshire County Council to create a Coaching Bursary. The aim was to attract new coaches to the club, either to manage

their own team or add support to an existing coach. The Bursary covers the cost of completing the necessary coaching qualifications and DBS check plus a range of club clothing. It also allows the existing coaches to re-new their existing qualifications to ensure that all our coaches are compliant with both their coaching and safeguarding requirements.

So far the scheme has seen us attract 10 new coaches to the club which includes 3 ladies and a 16 year old. The club is always on the look out for more coaches therefore if you are interested in helping to develop and shape a child's future then please get in contact with the club.

Off the field the club continue to strive to improve our facilities. We have purchased 2 sets of new goals, at a combined cost of £6000, helped by a grant from the Football Foundation. The parking on match days can be a problem and we are working with the AWS and Resettlement Centre to make use of an external car park.

The club are still working on a two phase project to install a much needed toilet block and a small

club house. The club have so far, raised £16,000 and we hope to get further funding from the Football Foundation.

For further information about Catterick Garrison Football Centre please contact [cgfc.clubdevelopment@outlook.com](mailto:cgfc.clubdevelopment@outlook.com)





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# LE CATEAU YEAR 6 RMS TITANIC AFTERNOON TEA

**O**n Friday 7th March as part of their topic, year 6 hosted an afternoon tea aboard the RMS Titanic.

Everyone dressed as passengers from all 3 classes, staff and aristocrats, engaging in conversation with our visitors and truly immersing themselves in the atmosphere.

There was an extensive menu to choose from, as First class passengers were treated to cucumber sandwiches with the crusts cut off, a selection of scones and cakes, they were delicious.

The children danced the waltz and the Irish Jig then finished off with a folk song. All the children and those onboard were thoroughly entertained.

Thank you to Lord and Lady Buxton, Mr Ashley Hutchinson, Mrs Cafferty, Phil Yeomans, Frank Kopka and Residents and carers of Rosedale Care Home for attending and making the afternoon memorable.









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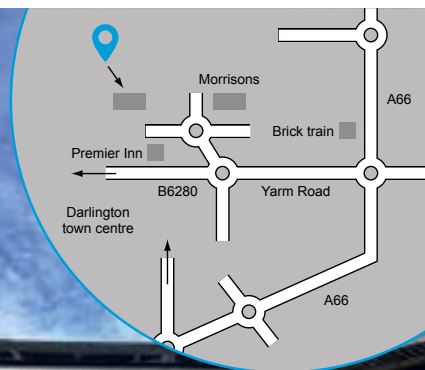
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## Risedale Girls Excel in CyberFirst Competition

Risedale School's Computing department was thrilled to participate in the CyberFirst Girls Competition, a nationwide initiative run by the National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC). The CyberFirst Girls Competition aims to inspire girls interested in technology to pursue a career in cyber security.



Open to all Year 8 girls, the competition presented a series of engaging online challenges designed to test their computational thinking and problem-solving abilities.

Despite being newcomers to the competition, the Risedale team displayed remarkable enthusiasm and strong camaraderie. The girls tackled the challenges enthusiastically and thoroughly enjoyed the experience, gaining valuable cybersecurity-related skills along the way.

*"I am incredibly proud of our girls and their immense effort and determination. They truly embraced the challenge with incredible enthusiasm and a fantastic spirit,"* commented Mrs Rodgers, Head of Computer Science and IT. *"Their teamwork, creativity, and resilience were truly inspiring."*

All pupils were awarded house points and received certificates of commendation.

Mrs Rodgers added, *"We can't wait for November when the next cohort of Year 8 girls will have the opportunity to embrace this exciting challenge!"*

STEM, which encompasses Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics, is crucial for innovation and progress in today's world. However,

women are significantly underrepresented in these fields. Promoting girls' interest and participation in STEM is vital to ensure a diverse and inclusive workforce that reflects the needs of our society. Risedale School is always striving to promote STEM subjects, particularly for girls, and this competition provided a fantastic opportunity for our pupils to explore this exciting field.

On Instagram, CyberFirst Yorkshire commented, *"Fantastic work girls! We're so proud of your amazing effort and teamwork during the CyberFirst Girls Competition! It's inspiring to see you embrace the world of cybersecurity with such determination."*

## Girls' Football News

### Risedale Girls' Football Team Triumphs in Penalty Shootout Drama

In a thrilling cup fixture on Tuesday 21st January, one of Risedale School's talented girls' football teams, captained by Isabelle Dagnall, battled for victory against Richmond School. The match was a closely contested affair, showcasing exceptional skill and sportsmanship from both sides.

Paige Doak scored a fantastic goal for Risedale, while goalkeeper Ava Hughes-Francis made some truly spectacular saves to keep the score level. At full-time, the score remained 1-1, sending the match into a nail-biting penalty shootout.



*"The tension was electric,"* said Mr Lawson, Head of PE at Risedale School. *"The penalty shootout was so nerve-wracking that some of our girls couldn't bear to watch."*

Ellie-Mae Reid and Kai-Leigh Paige showed nerves of steel during the penalty shootout, while Ava

Hughes-Francis continued her heroics between the posts, ultimately securing Risedale's victory.

*"It was an incredible match,"* enthused Mr Lawson. *"The girls played with such heart and determination throughout the entire game. They are a credit to the school and the entire Risedale Family."*

## Alumni Spotlight:

### Grace Baker Continues to Shine in the Performing Arts

Former Risedale School pupil Grace Baker, now a student at Richmond School and Sixth Form College, continues to impress with her exceptional talent in the performing arts.

Grace recently achieved a remarkable score of 94/100 in her LAMDA Level 2 Award in Musical Theatre (Grade 5), resulting in a well-deserved Distinction. This outstanding achievement follows her previous success in achieving a Distinction in a prior LAMDA exam while at Risedale.

LAMDA exams are renowned for their rigorous standards and focus on developing essential skills such as communication, teamwork, and self-confidence through the creative avenues of literature, drama, and music.

Grace's dedication and hard work are evident in this latest accomplishment. Everyone at Risedale congratulates her on this significant milestone and wishes her continued success in her future endeavours.

Grace continues to excel in the performing arts, actively participating in local theatre productions and honing her skills at the Charlotte Jacqueline School of Dance.

During her time at Risedale, Grace was a vibrant member of the school community. She consistently participated in music and drama performances, culminating in a leading role as Dorothy in the school's dazzling amateur production of "The Wizard of Oz" in July 2024. Her brother Oscar also gave a memorable performance as the Cowardly Lion in the same production. Grace's

talents were further recognised when she received both the Drama and Music Key Stage 4 Excellence Awards at the school's Presentation Evening. Grace was also a valued Lead Senior Pupil Ambassador at Risedale.



On hearing of Grace's achievements, Mrs Cox, Head of the Creative Arts Faculty and Senior Teacher, said, *"We are so proud of Grace. She was an absolute shining star during her time at Risedale, and it's no surprise that she continues to shine now. Grace was such a dedicated pupil of Risedale School. She loved her time here, and we loved having her. Such an asset. Kind, considerate, talented, dedicated – what more could you ask for?"*

Mrs Cox added, *"Well done, Grace, on your amazing LAMDA Distinction! We can't wait to see what the future has in store for you. Good luck from the whole Risedale Family!"*

### Emily-Faye Fort: Choir "Hero of the Week"

During a Service Children's Community Choir rehearsal on Wednesday 29th January, Year 10 Risedale School pupil Emily-Faye Fort was awarded a "Hero of the Week" certificate.

Emily-Faye's exceptional leadership skills shone through during rehearsals when she took charge and led the choir with clapping rhythms and routines during a break in the singing.

The Service Children's Community Choir provides a supportive and inclusive environment for children from military families to express their love of music. Emily-Faye's achievement highlights the talent and dedication of young musicians within the community and showcases the positive impact of music education.



### Alumni Spotlight: Charli Wilkins Writing Success

Risedale School is thrilled to congratulate alumna Charli Wilkins on her recent writing award from Darlington College's Gifted Writers' group.

Charli, a former pupil at Risedale, was recognised for her exceptional submissions to the College's writing group, showcasing her creativity and dedication to the craft. Her work, along with other talented writers, is being considered for inclusion in a forthcoming anthology, a testament to the high calibre of writing being produced.

Charli's achievements highlight the strong foundation in English and creative writing she received here at Risedale. Her success serves as an inspiration to current pupils, demonstrating the potential that lies within each of them. We're incredibly proud of Charli and wish her continued success in her writing endeavours.



*"We are absolutely delighted for Charli,"* said Miss Roberts, Senior Teacher and Head of English at Risedale School. *"She was always a talented writer with a gift for storytelling, and it's wonderful to see her continuing to excel. This award is a well-deserved recognition of her hard work and passion."*

Risedale encourages all pupils to explore their talents and pursue their passion for writing. Congratulations Charli, well done from the entire Risedale Family!

### Risedale Year 10 Boys Display Grit in Thirsk Basketball Match

The Risedale School Year 10 boys' basketball team travelled to Thirsk School & Sixth Form College on Thursday 30th January, for a hard-fought match. While Thirsk ultimately secured the win, Team Risedale demonstrated exceptional resilience, battling back and forth throughout. The team's performance showcased their growing strength and tactical development in each quarter.



*"It was fantastic to see the boys put into practice what they've been learning in our lessons and take their tactical play to the next level,"* commented Head of PE, Mr Lawson. *"I'm incredibly proud of their effort and performance. Well done boys!"*

### Risedale Pupil Referees Schools Rugby Finals at Kingston Park

Risedale School pupil, Toby-George Clarke, recently took the next step in his refereeing journey. The Year 11 pupil, who plays for the Catterick Crusaders RLC, officiated at the Year 8 Champion Schools Finals Afternoon at Kingston Park Stadium, Newcastle upon Tyne, on Monday 3rd February.

Toby-George's passion for Rugby League extends beyond playing. His dedication led him to complete a Match Officials course at Kingston Park, hosted by the Newcastle Rugby Foundation, where he successfully qualified. This prestigious appointment at the Champion Schools Finals was a testament to Toby-George's hard work and commitment.



Before the event, Catterick Crusaders RLFC shared the exciting news on their social media, praising Toby-George and thanking Risedale for their support in releasing him for the afternoon. The club's post stated, *"Have a great afternoon on the next step of your journey TG! We are sure he'll make you all proud."*

At Risedale School, we believe in supporting our pupils' extracurricular activities and nurturing their passion for sport. Therefore, we were thrilled to support Toby-George in this endeavour. *"We are incredibly proud of Toby-George's achievement. His dedication to rugby, both as a player and now as a referee, is truly commendable. This experience at the Champion Schools Finals was a fantastic opportunity for him, and we know he represented Risedale School brilliantly."*

This experience provided invaluable experience for the young referee as he continues to develop his skills and contribute to the sport he loves.

Well done Toby-George. Keep up the fantastic work!

### Risedale School Celebrates Completing Leading National Gender Inclusion Programme in Computer Science

We're proud to announce that Risedale School has been recognised for our commitment to encouraging gender inclusion in Computer Science by the National Centre for Computing Education (NCCE). We've successfully completed

the national 'I Belong: Encouraging Girls into Computer Science Programme', demonstrating our commitment to encouraging girls into Computer Science and improving the gender balance within the subject. The 'I Belong' certificate is awarded by the NCCE, a leading body for computing education in England.



Risedale School Headteacher, Mrs Greenwood, said: *"Encouraging more girls to explore pathways into STEM-based careers is not only a national and international priority, it is a school priority. I am passionate about the empowerment of young women and this wonderful programme supports them to consider computer science in a different light, raises awareness of gender balance in STEM subjects and champions equality. Respect is at the heart of equality and that is what we wish to nurture at Risedale."*

Head of Computer Science at Risedale, Mrs Rodgers, said: *"I've always been passionate about encouraging more girls to pursue Computing and receiving the I Belong certificate is a tremendous honour and a testament to our ongoing commitment to inclusion through technology. This achievement marks an important step, but our work doesn't end here. I'm confident that together, we can continue to make a meaningful impact and drive greater gender balance in Computing and STEM."*

We successfully completed all aspects of the programme to achieve the I Belong programme certificate. The evidence-informed programme signposts to a range of activities and approaches most likely to support girls' engagement with the subject.

Katherine Ellis, Gender Inclusion Lead at the NCCE, said: *"Congratulations to Risedale School on this accomplishment! Schools play a crucial part in addressing the gender gap in computer science education and related careers. This school is among others leading the way in understanding the issue and creating change at a local level. This certificate recognises the efforts the school has gone to, to support and empower all students, especially girls, in choosing this path."*

Established in 2018 and funded by the Department for Education, the NCCE has been instrumental in advancing computing education across schools in England, providing professional development

courses, resources, and guidance to enhance teaching and learning.

### Careers Cafe: Opening Doors to a World of Inspiring Futures



PHOTO L-R: Mrs Porritt (Careers Leader), guest speaker Nicola Stannard (HR & Recruitment Manager) and Mrs Harris (Careers Advisor).

Risedale School has launched a new Careers Cafe, a valuable resource for pupils of all year groups. Held every Tuesday lunchtime in the library, the cafe offers a fantastic opportunity to explore various industries and gain inspiration for future careers.

The session held on Tuesday 4th February, featured guest speaker Nicola Stannard, an HR & Recruitment Manager from the North East, who shared invaluable insights into the hiring process. Pupils had the opportunity to engage in an informal Q&A with Nicola, covering everything from writing compelling CVs to mastering interview techniques. She highlighted what employers look for, advising pupils on how to effectively showcase their skills and experience. Nicola also demystified the interview process, offering practical advice on preparation, expected questions, and making a positive impression. A key focus of her talk was apprenticeships, where she outlined the benefits and pathways available to pupils post-16.

*"The Careers Cafe is an invaluable experience for our pupils,"* said Mrs Porritt, Careers Leader at Risedale School. *"As a new venture for Risedale, we're thrilled to see so many pupils getting involved. Having a Recruitment specialist like Nicola share her expertise directly with our pupils is incredibly beneficial, giving them a real advantage as they consider their future careers."*

Nicola Stannard commented, *"I was so impressed by the enthusiasm and insightful questions from the pupils at Risedale's Careers Cafe. It's clear they're really thinking about their futures, and it was a pleasure to share my experience with such an engaged group. I'm also looking forward to coming back soon to work with the Year 10 pupils on mock interviews – it's a great way for them to practise and get feedback."*

Careers Advisor Mrs Harris added, *"In the coming weeks, we're excited to be hosting guest speakers*

*from a range of professions. Some will visit in person, while others will join us online. We have professionals from the world of Marketing, Photography, and Finance lined up, to name just a few."*

Risedale School is committed to providing a comprehensive Careers, Education, Information, Advice, and Guidance (CEIAG) programme, and the Careers Cafe is a prime example. Our commitment is further demonstrated through other CEIAG initiatives such as our work experience programmes, mock interviews, and our annual Careers Fair. The school recognises the importance of preparing pupils for their future and strives to create opportunities for them to explore their interests and develop the skills necessary for success in further education and the world of work.

### Poetry Success: Young Writers Shine!

We are thrilled to announce the results of our latest poetry competition, "The Beautiful Truth"! This year, our talented pupils were challenged to submit a poem that reflects their personal truth, exploring themes of identity, resilience, and hope. And wow, did they rise to the occasion!

29 outstanding poems by Risedale pupils have been selected for publication by Young Writers in their latest poetry anthology. Each piece offers a glimpse into the unique experiences and perspectives of these budding poets, showcasing their creativity and passion.



Teacher of English and Media Studies, Miss Douglas, expressed her pride by stating, *"I am incredibly proud of each and every pupil who took the time and care to craft their poem! It is such an achievement to have their work published; they should all be so proud of themselves!"*

We can't wait for everyone to read these inspiring works. Look out for the anthology, which will be available in the Risedale School library soon!

On Facebook, Young Writers commented, *"What an incredible achievement, well done to everyone!"*



## 'Lit in Colour' Accreditation for Excellence in Diversity

We're incredibly proud to announce that Risedale School has received the prestigious "Lit in Colour" accreditation, recognising our outstanding commitment to diversifying our English curriculum.

This achievement highlights our pioneering role in the Lit in Colour Programme, an initiative dedicated to amplifying diverse voices and ensuring our curriculum truly represents all pupils.

The "Excellence for Diversifying the English Curriculum" accreditation celebrates our dedication to inclusivity and representation. By embracing a wide range of authors and perspectives, we have created an enriching learning environment where every pupil feels seen and valued.



*"We are incredibly honoured to receive this recognition," said Miss Roberts, Senior Teacher and Head of English at Risedale. "At Risedale, we believe that literature has the power to learn about our own identities; connect us with others; challenge our perspectives, and foster empathy. By diversifying our curriculum, we are not only exposing our pupils to a wider range of stories but also equipping them with the tools to navigate the world around them."*

Pearson's Lit in Colour Programme, in partnership with Penguin and The Runnymede Trust, aims to address the underrepresentation of authors of colour in schools. Through resources, training, and support, the programme empowers schools like ours to build more inclusive and representative learning experiences.

## Risedale Year 9 Football Team Triumph Over Bedale in Cup Clash

On Tuesday 25th February 2025, the Risedale Year 9 football team delivered a commanding

performance against Bedale High School, securing a 5-2 victory in the cup away fixture. The final scoreline reflected Risedale's dominance, despite a brief scare in the middle of the match.

Risedale started with intensity, immediately pressing Bedale's defence. Liam Smith's powerful run through the midfield drew a foul in the penalty area, earning Risedale an early opportunity. Smith coolly converted the resulting penalty, sending the Bedale goalkeeper the wrong way and giving his team a deserved lead.

For much of the first half, Risedale controlled possession and dictated the tempo. However, Bedale proved dangerous on the counterattack, managing to score twice on either side of the halftime break, briefly putting Risedale behind.

This setback spurred Risedale into action. Matthew Senivota rose to the occasion, first levelling the score with a powerful header from a perfectly delivered Corey Hillman corner. Senivota then demonstrated his composure, slotting home a well-placed shot from just outside the box, assisted by a clever pass from Blair Campbell.



With renewed confidence, Risedale seized control of the match. Corey Hillman, who had already contributed an assist, added to the tally by pouncing on a rebound after a strong save from the Bedale keeper. Alex Stephenson sealed the victory with another well-executed strike from distance, putting the game beyond Bedale's reach. The final whistle blew, confirming Risedale's 5-2 victory and their progression to the next round of the cup.

Thank you to Bedale for hosting #TeamRisedale in a game played with great spirit from both sides.

## Rishi Sunak Visits Risedale School

Rishi Sunak visited Risedale School in February to hear the new Headteacher set out a new vision for the school.

He met Mrs Greenwood who outlined her vision to improve standards at the secondary school and have the school at the heart of its community.

The Richmond and Northallerton MP heard how Mrs Greenwood, who took over as headteacher just five months ago, has already raised expectations for behaviour and academic standards, which was acknowledged in the school's Ofsted inspection in December.



In the report, whilst suggestions that improvements are necessary, inspectors commented that *"there is an air of optimism about the future"* and *"the school is increasingly ambitious for its pupils."*

Mrs Greenwood shared details of the school's improvement plan and its aim to achieve at least 'Good' ratings in all areas at the next Ofsted inspection.

She said: *"As the new Headteacher, it was reassuring to chat to Mr Sunak about our school improvement plan and the significant progress we have already made this year in the areas of behaviour, culture and quality of education,"*

*"This experience gave our young people a platform to grow in confidence, as they not only spoke to a public figure, but learned how their concerns can be represented in Parliament by their MP"* Mrs Greenwood concluded.

During the visit, Mr Sunak observed a Year 7 English lesson using virtual reality (VR) technology to explore the Globe Theatre in London as part of a Shakespeare project.

The school has embraced new technologies in teaching, integrating VR to create immersive learning experiences that enhance engagement and deepen understanding.



Mr Sunak also met student-led groups, including Service Pupil Ambassadors, Pupil Librarians, and Pupil Mental Health Ambassadors, who play vital roles in supporting their peers and promoting well-being within the school community.

Mr Sunak said: *"It is encouraging to see the determination of Risedale School's leadership to drive improvements. The use of innovative teaching methods, such as VR, alongside strong student-led initiatives, shows a real commitment*

*to providing the best possible opportunities for students.*

*"I am confident the school will continue to make great strides forward," he concluded.*



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# HISTORIC ENGLAND/DURHAM UNIVERSITY AND BRITISH MUSEUM PRESS RELEASE

25 March 2025

## Iron Age Hoard Discovery Alters Our Understanding of Life in Britain 2,000 Years Ago



- The discovery near the village of Melsonby, North Yorkshire, is one of the biggest and most important Iron Age hoards ever found in the UK
- Over 800 items dating back 2,000 years have been unearthed and taken to Durham University for stabilisation and recording
- Objects include vehicle components from wagons and/or chariots including 28 iron tyres, two vessels, elaborate horse harnesses, bridle bits and ceremonial spears
- The artefacts are highly significant in telling us about society, technology, wealth, power and travel in Iron Age Britain
- Excavation of the site was funded by Historic England and led by archaeologists at Durham University, with specialist support from the British Museum
- IMAGES AND X-RAY/CT IMAGING SCANS OF FINDS AVAILABLE [HERE](#)
- B-ROLL VIDEO FOOTAGE AVAILABLE [HERE](#)
- For images of the items at the Yorkshire Museum, please see attached. Please credit Gareth Buddo for York Museums Trust.

Today (Tuesday 25 March, 2025), Historic England, Durham University and the British Museum announce the discovery of the Melsonby Hoard: one of the largest and most important Iron Age finds in the UK.

The vast deposit of more than 800 items provides an archaeological time capsule from the Iron Age, around 2,000 years ago. Initial assessment suggests the objects were buried in the first century AD, around the time of the Roman conquest of southern Britain.

Discovered and reported in December 2021 by metal detectorist Peter Heads, it was excavated in 2022 by a team of archaeologists from Durham University, with advice from the British Museum and over £120,000 grant funding from Historic England. The Yorkshire Museum is launching a fundraising campaign to secure the hoard for the nation.

The quantity and variety of objects are unusual for Iron Age Britain and have important implications for reassessing our understanding of the nature and use of vehicles at the time. The find could lead to a major re-evaluation of how wealth and status were expressed.

Vehicle components, for which it is hard to find parallels in Britain, include the partial remains of more than seven four-wheeled wagons and two-wheeled chariots.

The find also includes elaborate harnesses for at least 14 ponies, three ceremonial spears and two ornate cauldrons or vessels - one lidded and likely used as a wine mixing bowl, which had been buried at the bottom of a large ditch. Some harness pieces are adorned with red, Mediterranean coral and coloured glass, and are larger than is typical for the period.

While some of the objects match others found in Britain, for others the best parallels are found in continental Europe, suggesting long distance connections and shared technology at the time.

### **More finds, cutting edge scanning technology and why items were burnt**

Cast copper alloy bridle bits, linchpins, rein rings and harness fittings were found within a cluster of 28 iron tyres from horse drawn vehicles. Some of the tyres had been intentionally bent out of shape and the vessels were carefully placed upside down.

Nearby, a deposit of spears and pieces of decorated harness for ponies were wrapped together in a bundle and placed into a second ditch. They were removed from the ground as a large block to be excavated later in the laboratory.

Cutting-edge X-ray CT scanning technology, based at the University of Southampton's  $\mu$ -VIS X-Ray Imaging Centre, was used to identify the objects and how they were positioned so they could be excavated without causing damage.

Research on the material, currently in its early stages, is expected to help us understand more about how Iron Age people expressed wealth and status, as well as how and where they travelled and traded.

A large amount of the material within the hoard was either burnt or broken, suggesting a symbolic process of people showing how wealthy and powerful they were by being able to destroy the objects. They might have been burnt on a funerary pyre before being buried, but no human remains were found.

### **Professor Tom Moore, Head of the Department of Archaeology, Durham University, said:**

"The Melsonby Hoard is of a scale and size that is exceptional for Britain and probably even Europe.

"Unusually it includes lots of pieces of vehicles and items such as the wine mixing bowl which is decorated in both Mediterranean and Iron Age styles.



"Whoever originally owned the material in this hoard was probably a part of a network of elites across Britain, into Europe and even the Roman world.

"The destruction of so many high-status objects, evident in this hoard, is also of a scale rarely seen in Iron Age Britain and demonstrates that the elites of northern Britain were just as powerful as their southern counterparts."

**Professor Moore added:** "This discovery demonstrates how responsible metal-detectorists like Peter Heads, by alerting the authorities, have ensured this material could be safeguarded for the future."

**Duncan Wilson, Chief Executive of Historic England, said:** "Quite simply, this is one of the most important and exciting Iron Age period

discoveries made in the UK. It sheds new light on Iron Age life in the north and Britain, but it also demonstrates connections with Europe. Its proximity to the great Iron Age enclosure at Stanwick is an important factor in understanding its significance. Historic England understood the importance of this find from the moment it was reported to us, and we're thrilled we were able to provide grant support to allow its excavation and initial conservation."

**Duncan Wilson added:** "Any member of the public viewing these new discoveries will feel a real sense of excitement and wonder."

**Dr Sophia Adams, Curator, First Millennium European and Roman Conquest period Collections, the British Museum, said:** "This is the largest single deposit of horse harness and vehicle parts excavated in Britain. It is significant not just for

the quantity of objects buried together 2,000 years ago but also the quality and range of items. These finds shed new light on collections at the British Museum that were discovered in the 19th and 20th centuries."

**Dr Andrew Woods, Senior Curator at the Yorkshire Museum said:** "This Iron Age hoard is an unprecedented find in the north which will help us to understand more about this remarkable period in our history. We have the exciting opportunity to save the hoard for the nation and the people of Yorkshire. By acquiring the hoard we will be able to make it accessible to everyone and, working in partnership with others, we can learn more about this fascinating period, why the hoard was buried, how the objects may have been used and to cast light on to whom it may have belonged."



Tue 24 June 2025 | 1.00pm - 4.00pm

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# LIKE FATHER, LIKE SON...

To mark Father's Day, and the 75th anniversary of the start of the war in Korea (June 1950 – July 1953) the Green Howards Museum in Richmond have highlighted a family connection going down the generations.

Whilst the Green Howards did not serve in Korea as a regiment, a number of individuals from the regiment went on to join other units or were seconded to other regiments and saw action in Korea. One of those was the then Captain Richard Ralph Gower Godson Noyes OBE.

The son of a Green Howard; Richard's father, Ralph Elliot Noyes, commanded the 10th Battalion of the Yorkshire Regiment (as the Green Howards were known at the time) during the First World War. He led the Battalion to France on 10th September 1915.

On the 25th the battalion was detailed for the British offensive taking place at Loos, where the objective was Hill 70, a low hill with bare sides, lying to the east of Loos and a heavily fortified German strong point.

By the 26th, the unit, together with others having the same objective, was already at the limits of physical endurance, but they succeeded in pushing over the top of the crest, being cut down as they tried to advance further.

The battalion War Diary is bleak in its simplicity:



*Ralph Elliot Noyes.*



*Richard Ralph Gower  
Godson Noyes.*

Moved to attack Hill 70 through the village of Loos. The Bn reached the first line fire trenches in support of the London Regiment. The battalion lost heavily.

The 10th Yorkshires lost their Commanding Officer and the next three senior officers, one of whom was Major Noyes, all within a few moments of each other.

Ralph Noyes' body was not recovered so, having no known grave he is commemorated on the Loos Memorial to the Missing in Dud Corner Cemetery. The Loos Memorial commemorates over 20,000 officers and men who have no known grave, who fell in the area from the first day of the Battle of Loos to the end of the war. Captain Noyes left behind a widow, Florence, son Richard (age two) and three-month-old daughter, Rosemary. One of the most poignant pieces of archive which in which all casualties of WW1 are recorded is the Register of Soldier's Effects. This catalogues the

outstanding pay and War Gratuity owed to each man at the time he died. In Ralph's case Florence was bequeathed £25, 17 shillings and 1 penny – allowing for inflation, just over £2000 in today's money.

In his father's footsteps

When he grew up, Ralph's father followed his father into the regiment; commissioned as a 2nd-Lieutenant on 31 August 1931.

Promoted to Lieutenant on 31 August 1936 he transferred from the Green Howards to the Royal Army Service Corps (RASC) in March the following year and served with them throughout the Second World War.

Noyes was Mentioned in Despatches in 1945 and, the same year, invested into the Military Division of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (MBE) for services in Italy.

By the time of the Korean War, Richard Noyes had risen to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel and as a consequence of his 'Gallant and Distinguished service' in Korea, 1 – 23 July 1953'

he was awarded the OBE. He retired from service in March 1960 and died on 15th August 1992 in Nottinghamshire.

Richard served with the Green Howards for five years. His army career spanned four decades. But such is the feeling of family that soldiers have for their original regiment, Richard Noyes' medal group, which includes his United Nations Service Medal for Korea, was given to the Green Howards Museum by his family in 1994. Visitors can see Richard Noyes' medals in the Harrison Medal Gallery.

Richard had donated his father's medals to the museum in 1985. They are also on display in the Medal Gallery.

News has reached Cheltenham of the death in action of Major Ralph Elliot Noyes, of the 10th Yorkshire Regiment. He was the second surviving son of Colonel G. A. Noyes, formerly of the Royal Artillery, of Parkfield Lawn, Cheltenham. He retired from the army four years ago with the rank of major, but on the outbreak of war he offered his services, and was attached to the 10th Battalion of his old regiment. Major Noyes, who was forty-one years of age, possessed the medal and two clasps for the Tirah Campaign of 1897.

*Extract from The Gloucester Journal, 9 October 1915  
recording the death of Ralph Noyes.*

# CARNAGILL PRIMARY SCHOOL, CATTERICK GARRISON



**Headteacher: Mrs Louise Newport | Website: [www.carnagill.dalesmat.org](http://www.carnagill.dalesmat.org)**

**C**arnagill Primary School is part of the Dales Academies Trust and works with a group of schools to ensure the best provision and outcomes for the children at Catterick Garrison.

Being situated at Catterick Garrison, mid-year moves are common, and the school ensures that children arriving or leaving the school are well supported through transitions. Our aim is that all children feel welcome, safe and confident in our school, no matter how long they are here for.

## OFSTED Inspection

Carnagill Primary School was recently inspected by OFSTED (January 2025) and are pleased to announce that the school received the following judgements:

- Quality of Education – GOOD
- Behaviour and Attitudes – GOOD
- Personal Development – GOOD
- Leadership and Management – GOOD
- Early Years Provision – OUTSTANDING

The inspection confirmed that Carnagill Primary School is a highly inclusive school characterised by strong values, an ambitious curriculum and a commitment to the wellbeing of all pupils.

The school's Early Years provision was singled out particularly, with highly skilled staff creating a language-rich environment where children swiftly develop communication skills.

Mrs Newport, Headteacher commented on the report; "In recent years, our school has embarked on a journey of remarkable improvement. We are delighted that OFSTED recognise this, and that their judgements acknowledge the hard work and dedication of our entire school community. Our nurturing and welcoming environment empowers children to thrive as independent and resilient individuals, ready to embrace the future with confidence and skill."

The report states:

"Pupils of all ages welcome visitors warmly and talk of their love for the school. They appreciate the support that the school provides for them.

This includes pupils from military families and those pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND)."

"The checks leaders make on pupils' academic and personal development, on arrival, are precise and

help to inform pupils' next steps, including support with early reading. This support gives pupils what they need to achieve. This includes pupils with SEND and those speak English as an additional language."

"Pupils are safe at Carnagill. They know that there are trusted adults they can go to with any worries and 'they'll talk you through it'. The school's work in regard to pupils' emotional well-being has notable impact."

"Children in early years get an exceptional start to their education. Highly skilled adults engage children in their learning."

(OFSTED January 2025)



## World Book Day

We celebrated all things books at our annual world book day celebrations. We took the inspiration this year from the "Little People Big Dreams" Books by Maria Isabel Sánchez Vegara. The aim was to promote aspirational people who have made an impact on their professions. From athletes to artists, singers to superstars, the school was filled with famous faces!

Throughout the week, children took part in virtual online events. Year 3 worked with Michael Rosen on "the tales of nature", Year 4 spoke with Jenny McLaughlin in "The land of Roar" and Year 1 and 2 went on a hunt to find "The Leaf Thief" with author Alice Hemming.

In the afternoon, parents were invited to share a drink and a story with their children in our reading café. It was a chance to read together, learn new ideas and find some new books to enjoy together. The Wonky Tree Bookshop, from Leyburn, came in and each child left school that day with a brand-new book in exchange for their book voucher. Bluey was by far the most popular choice in EYFS! It was great to see other children also choosing books, including poetry books and sharing them with their friends.

World Book Day is one of our biggest promotions of reading for pleasure in school, and as always, we are supported by our parents and community who come and share these celebrations with us. We are looking forward to WBD 2026!





## Early Years

At Carnagill Primary School, Nursery and Reception year groups work in a dedicated separate building with a fantastic outdoor area. Children can start in



If your child is in Nursery, we offer flexible places (both 15 hours and 30-hour places).




**Carnagill Primary School**

Spaces available in our  
**OUTSTANDING** Early Years Provision.  
Phone **01748 833 622**

*"Children in early years get an exceptional start to their education" - Ofsted 2025*

A member of  
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If you are interested in joining our wonderful school, please contact us to arrange a visit on **01748 833622**.

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**For further details or to arrange a visit, please contact Mrs Pepper at [boarding@keswick.cumbria.sch.uk](mailto:boarding@keswick.cumbria.sch.uk)**

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# PURPLE UP DAY AT LE CATEAU CP SCHOOL

**W**e spent last month at Le Cateau CP Primary School celebrating the Month of the Military Child, it is a time to celebrate and raise awareness of the unique experiences children from an Armed Forces background may come across.

To conclude the Month of the Military Child, on Friday 21st April we celebrated PURPLE UP! DAY, we encouraged everybody to wear something purple to school to represent every branch of the military and to show unity between all.

We started the day with a multicultural breakfast out front of school, and finished with an art exhibition in the school hall. Families and pupils participated in a variety of activities throughout the day, with Sticky Kids aerobics in F52, a Danceathon in year 1&2 and KS2 taking tackling an assault course.

Throughout April, students are celebrated for their strength, resilience, and sacrifice they make as military children and how important it is to be a part of such an incredible community.

Nearly 70% of our pupils have at least one parent who is serving in the armed forces. It is a great pleasure to work alongside such amazing and devoted individuals every day and we are very proud to be a part of such a special community.

















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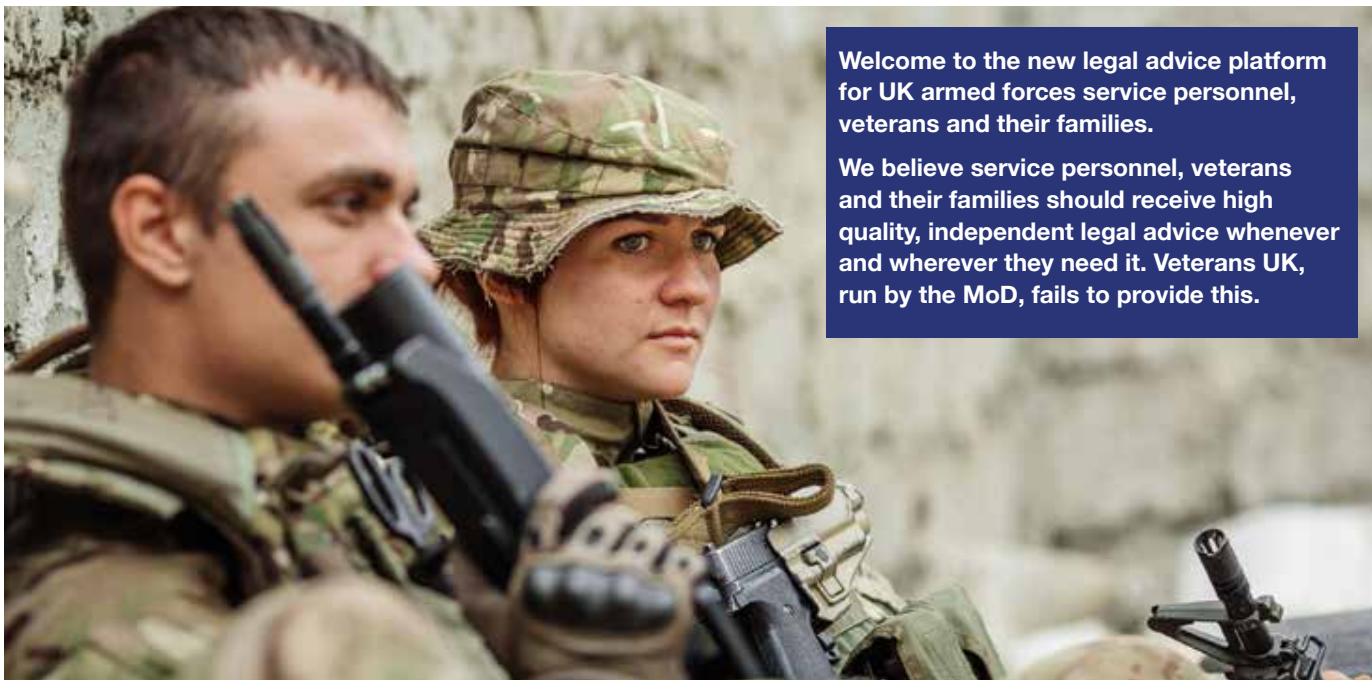
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*Serving member of the Armed Forces*



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# Life-changing legal advice for the armed forces community



Welcome to the new legal advice platform for UK armed forces service personnel, veterans and their families.

We believe service personnel, veterans and their families should receive high quality, independent legal advice whenever and wherever they need it. Veterans UK, run by the MoD, fails to provide this.

## FREE LEGAL ADVICE CLINIC

It has recently emerged that the MoD has blocked on-site access to independent legal advice for injured veterans at DMRC Stanford Hall.

In response to this, we have launched a confidential online legal advice clinic for service personnel, veterans and their families worldwide.

Our team is vastly experienced in all areas of military law including:

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- AFCS claims, appeals and reconsiderations
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*"I'm proud to act as an ambassador for Veterans OK, the legal advice platform providing life-changing advice to service personnel, veterans and their families."*

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ANNIVERSARY OF VE DAY

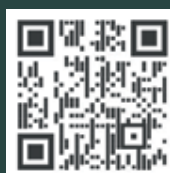
## Celebrating the 80th anniversary of VE Day

8 May 1945 – VE (Victory in Europe) Day meant an end to nearly six years of a war that had cost the lives of millions; destroyed homes, families, and cities; and brought huge suffering. Millions of people rejoiced in the news that the intense strain of war was finally over. In towns and cities across the world, people marked the victory with street parties, dancing and singing.

Our own history as a charity is deeply connected to VE Day, as we were forged during the preceding months to ensure that soldiers returning from the Second World War could be taken care of. Now, as then, we continue to be inspired by the community that we proudly support, and the fortitude shown by so many in the face of life's challenges.

As long as there is a British Army, the Army Benevolent Fund will be here to provide support in times of hardship or need.

**This VE Day, show your gratitude by supporting the Army Benevolent Fund.**



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