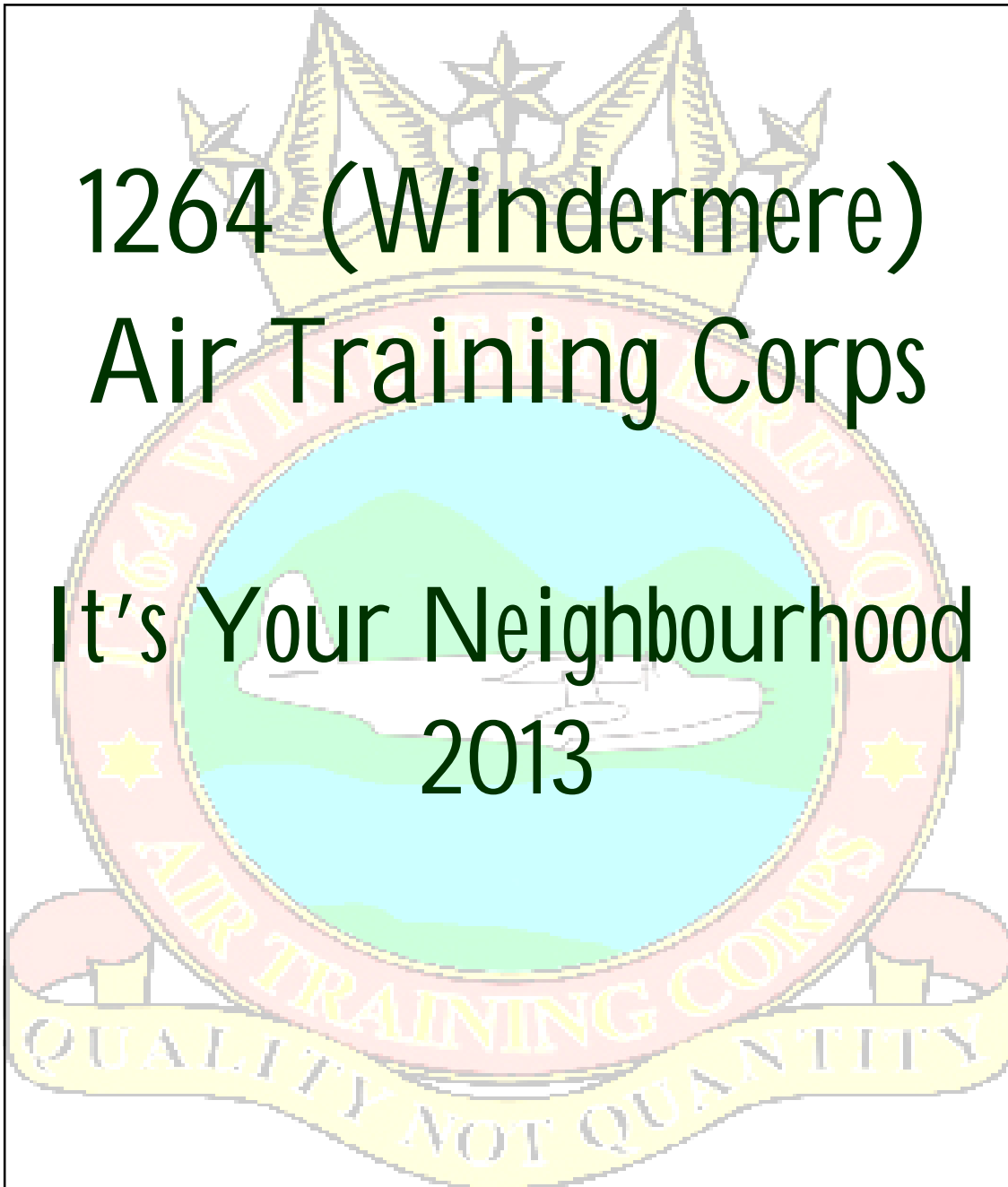


# 1264 (Windermere) Air Training Corps It's Your Neighbourhood 2013



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# INTRODUCTION

## BACKGROUND

1264 (Windermere) Squadron Air Training Corps are a group of local individuals, adult leaders and 13 – 17 year old cadets, both boys and girls. The Air Cadet Organisation is a UK wide organisation and the Squadron in Windermere belongs to Cumbria and Lancashire Wing.

The Cadets have been involved with 3 local projects during 2013:

- Blooming Lovely
- Fruity Windermere
- Windermere in Bloom - Water Margin

## THE PROJECT

The project has been funded by United Utilities and the North Of England Horticultural Society. Six and half thousand daffodil bulbs and five tonnes of gravel were bought with the money for the recreational ground Queens Park Windermere. The bulbs were purchased from Hayes Garden World, Ambleside. The area of land where the bulbs were planted is on a grass banking at the side of the park, and in amongst the trees and path ways that lead to various public paths to the estate. Some of the Windermere in Bloom Advisory Group members also came out to assist the young people and even brought a quantity of bluebell bulbs that were planted close to the stream.

Cumbria Police asked the Squadron for help in planting bulbs on Queens Park which is directly opposite their HQ. They spent several evenings helping PC Backhouse plant bulbs and shrubs.

Two gents from the Fruity Windermere Project came to our HQ and supervised us building three tree guards for use around saplings in Birthwaite Gardens. This was an ideal indoor project for us to do during the winter months.

Further involvement with the first two projects opened the door for us to volunteer for Windermere in Bloom. We have adopted a wetland area in Queens Park, again adjacent to our HQ. In the wetland area we have planted iris, herbs, a variety of bulbs, honeysuckle and other climbing plants. We also refurbished bird boxes which sadly have recently been stolen. These boxes are made of re-cycled wood and environmentally friendly preservative. There is a sign telling people what they can expect to find in this area.

## FUTURE PLANS

Work still to be carried out in this area; make and site a bug hide, carry out a survey of bugs, wild life and plant life, maintain area over the winter so area can be included in future Windermere in Bloom entries.

## DUKE of EDINBURGH AWARD SCHEME

Three cadets from the Squadron are using their involvement with Windermere In Bloom for the Volunteering Section of the Duke of Edinburgh's Bronze Award. Other cadets have been involved with the project; the Air Training Corps activity encourages young people to engage in local community projects such as Windermere in Bloom.

## IN KIND

Financial costs incurred to the cadets or the Air Training Corps and been nil, so for a charity youth organisation its been great value for money!

Most of the gardening equipment used, shovels, spades and forks were from instructors sheds. On one occasion we were kindly given the use of some shovels and a wheelbarrow by Sam Nelson, a local builder.

## 1264 (WINDERMERE) AIR TRAINING CORPS PROJECT

Individuals involved in the project;

Adult Staff:

- Sgt McGlenn
- Sgt Bentley
- Mr Holme
- Mr Trevor

Bronze D of E Cadets:

- Sergeant Karl Hiner
- Cadet Rennison
- Cadet Fralick

ATC Community Project:

- Cadet Bell
- Cadet Booth
- Cadet Arrol-Barker
- Cadet C Hall
- Cadet S Hall

Over the three projects the Squadron has given approximately 80hrs.

The Windermere in Bloom project has consumed approximately 50hrs.

All the cadets have been actively involved, the staff have been keen too!



Illustrating the Cadets planting trees, bulbs and refurbishing the damaged bird box.