



Editors: Jane Montellier, UMT Secretary & Padre Roger Grey, Chaplain

Tewkesbury Sea Cadets Newsletter - Winter 2017/18

New Year's Welcome from our Commanding Officer

Welcome, and a happy new year from all the Ship's Company at Tewkesbury Sea Cadets. The festive break has given everyone at the unit a well-deserved rest and has given us time to reflect on what a fantastic 12 months we've had. All the highlights from 2017 are too numerous to fully describe, but it has been great to see both new staff and cadets join the unit. As always, our cadets have benefited from decades of coaching experience and have gained places at almost every area competition by winning many district trophies (so many we had to invest in another trophy cabinet on the main deck!) The stand-out achievement was definitely our junior rowing boys team who not only won the district and area competitions, beating all other units across the whole of the South West Area, but also placed 3rd place at the National Regatta in London. This is an achievement that the unit has not seen in well over a decade, and each of the boys should be immensely proud of this historic achievement. Thanks also needs to go to CPO (SCC) P Mercer, whom without the team wouldn't be anywhere near as strong as they are today - thank you!

The unit's fantastic UMT headed up by our Chairman Mrs Griffiths has also been relentless in improving the facilities our cadets have at their disposal. New boats, further building renovation and the start of a brand new computer room means we have been able to offer our cadets a wide ranging cadet experience, where we hope there has been something for each and every cadet to enjoy. We have also been delighted with the external awards and commendations we have received, as not only were we presented with another Burgee and Captain's Commendation, one of only a handful of units across the country, but we were also crowned the second best unit in the South West Area as runners up of the Stephenson Trophy at this year's Conference. We have never been awarded this accolade, and this is a testament to the hard work and dedication that everyone involved in the unit does. Another fantastic achievement we saw last year was our nomination for a Queen's Award for Voluntary Service; no other cadet unit has got as far in this nationally recognised award process, which is finally decided by the Cabinet Office. We will have to wait a number of months until the final decision is made, but to get this far alone has been fantastic.

2018 looks to be even busier than 2017, and we have many new and exciting things on the horizon. A brand new sailing dinghy, the RS Zest, has already been ordered, and will arrive in time for the new boating season. We also have the High Sheriff of Gloucestershire visiting the unit in February to show his support. Drill competition preparations are well on the way, with training having happened over the Christmas break. The outside space renovation is a big target we're looking to complete this year,



*Commanding Officer
Sub Lt (SCC) T Cooper*

which will see the construction of an outbuilding four times bigger than our current garage, with workshops and storage space, a bike store and a newly tarmac'd area for recreational activities and drill.

We are always keen to hear from both cadets and parents about what we can do to improve the unit, and the experience our cadets gain. In light of this, a cadet forum has been established which will help us to listen to our cadets more.

Thanks as always for your ongoing support of the unit. Our volunteers sacrifice much of their time to give our cadets a head start in life, and I am sure you will agree with me that this dedication is received with gratitude.

Forthcoming Events 2018

District Drill - Gloucester	11 th Feb
District Training WE - Tiddesley Wood	16 th -18 th Feb
Area Football Competition	17 th Feb
Visit from High Sheriff of Glos	21 st Feb
Area Physical Training - Raleigh	2 nd -4 th March
Area Drill Competition - Raleigh	16 th -18 th March
District Training WE	23 rd -25 th March
Junior AT Weekend	27 th -29 th April
District Regatta	9 th -10 th June

Please note that, as always, dates will be updated on our Facebook page if there any changes. More dates will follow in due course and will be in the next Newsletter. For further information about any of the above courses/events please see Debbie Bailey in Admin or our Training Officer PO Rob Ashmeade.

Note for parents

In keeping with Sea Cadet safe guarding policy, cadet surnames are omitted from the text of all newsletters

TS Otter News

Congratulations to the our cadets

The following awards and badges were handed out at recent divisions:

Promotion to Cadet First Class

Cadet Courtney
Cadet Ella
Cadet Matthew

1 Year's Good Conduct

Cadet First Class James I

Basic Seamanship

Cadet First Class Amber

Basic AT

Cadet First Class Amber

Basic First Aid

Cadet Courtney
Cadet Ella

Basic Catering

Cadet Josh
Cadet Matthew

First Class First Aid

Able Cadet Fred
Able Cadet Ryan
Able Cadet Zoe

Supervised Coxswain

Cadet First Class James I

1 Star Kayak

Cadet First Class Amber

2 Star Kayak

Cadet Ellie

New Entry

Congratulations to Junior Cadets Angelique and Jacob on their enrolment to Senior Cadet Level



Junior Cadet Promotions

Junior Cadet 1st Class Nyah - Leading Junior Cadet
Junior Cadet Jack - Junior Cadet First Class

Commodore's Broad Pennant

Cadet Angelique
Cadet Jacob
Leading Cadet Xander

Module Badges

Yellow - Junior Cadet 1st Class Nyah
Red - Junior Cadet Tegan
Red - Junior Cadet Ben
Red - Junior Cadet Jack
Blue - Junior Cadet Jack
Green - Junior Cadet 1st Class Nyah
Green - Junior Cadet Thomas

Unit Is Privileged to Host Award and Commissioning Ceremonies



District Officer Lt Cdr (SCC) Martyn Barber with Air Marshal Sir Dusty Miller, Warden of the Hon Company of Gloucestershire

On the night the Unit held its Candlelight Carol Service, it was privileged to host two other events. Among the guests at the service was Lt Cdr (SCC) Carol Pritchard RNR, who, until her recent retirement, had served with great distinction as the Training Officer for the South West Area. At the request of the Area Officer, she was presented with the prestigious award of the Second Sea Lord's Commendation for outstanding service to the Sea Cadet Corps. In handing her award, the Padre quoted from the Commendation: "Her long and distinguished service is in the highest and best traditions of the Sea Cadet Corps". The name of Carol Pritchard will long be revered both at Malvern, where she was its first CO, and throughout the South West Area.

On the same night, TS Otter was privileged to host the Commissioning Ceremony for the new District Officer for the Severn District. In leading the Ceremony, the Padre, as the District's Chaplain, paid a warm tribute to the retiring District Officer, Lt Cdr (SCC) Michael Pritchard RNR, who then presented to his successor, Lt Cdr (SCC) Martyn Barber RNR, a ceremonial sword to mark the Office entrusted to him. The Ceremony ended with the Padre leading prayers for the new DO and the Blessing. Every good wish goes to Martyn and the District Team as they seek to support the Units in the Severn District.

Padre Roger Grey, Chaplain TS Otter & Severn District

Carols and Candlelight at Christmas

Padre Roger Grey's Candlelight Carol Service is always a highlight of the Unit's calendar, but this year's event was a particularly special evening, marking the 75th anniversary of the Unit's formation in 1942, at the height of the Second World War. If that were not enough, the occasion also provided an opportunity for prize-giving, and for the commissioning of a new District Officer, and farewells to his outgoing predecessor. For this auspicious event, the building was packed, literally to the rafters, with a strong turn out from local dignitaries, supporters of the Unit, and parents, as well as the cadets and staff themselves, filling not only the body of the hall but also the galleries. Padre Roger led off the proceedings with a traditional carol service, the lusty singing of familiar carols beautifully accompanied by a section of the Tewkesbury Town Band under the leadership of Nigel Morgan. As each carol took us through the Christmas story, Junior Cadets brought forward the figures to make up the Crib. Able Cadets Scott and Zoe led in a reflection of what the Unit has given the many generations of their fellow cadets, emphasising the confidence that the Sea Cadet organisation instills in young people, a quality demonstrated as PO Campbell-Reeves and Cadet Jacob led us through the prayers. A collection raised just under £200 for the Tewkesbury Foodbank before a break for refreshments and mulled wine provided by the UMT gave us all an opportunity to admire the anniversary cake baked and iced by Geraldine Liddy - and then eat it! We reconvened for the presentation of awards by the Warden of the Honourable Company of Gloucestershire, Air Marshal Sir Dusty Miller, followed by the formal handover of the District Officer responsibilities, again conducted by Padre Roger. The evening concluded with a traditional sunset ceremony, impeccably stage managed by the Unit team, mirroring that conducted by UK Armed Forces units across the world on formal occasions, and guaranteed to bring a lump to the throat. Although not quite the end of 2017's activities, this was certainly an event to celebrate not just this year's, but 75 years of excellence and achievement by the staff and cadets of TS Otter. BZ, shipmates! (Bravo Zulu - the traditional signal code for 'well done').

Group Captain Clive Montellier



Photos with very kind permission of Rhys Taylor

Our wonderful 75th Anniversary cake, made and iced by our Treasurer, Geraldine Liddy.



Lt Cdr Carol Pritchard with Padre Roger Grey after her formal presentation of the Second Sea Lord's Commendation Award (see article on previous page)



Footballers Score A Hit



TS Otter's footballing cadets made an impression at the District Football Competition in November 2017. Chief Anderson reports..."It was an amazing effort by the Junior Section who worked really hard with only four players. Our Junior Girls joined up with Malvern and Stroud and finished runners up. Junior Boys put in a fantastic effort and are 2017 Severn District winners. I'm proud of them all!"

Cadets' Achievements Awarded

Our cadets were recognised for their effort and achievement during the Annual Awards Ceremony at the end of the Candlelit Carol Service. Air Marshal Sir Dusty Miller, Warden of the Honourable Company of Gloucestershire kindly presented the proud cadets with their cups and certificates.



Roy Stanton Cup for Best Newcomer went to **Cadet Ellie**



CPO Stamp Award for Best Attendance went to **Able Cadet Ryan**



Town Council's Award for Community Service went to **Able Cadet Zoe**



Most Commendable Junior Award went to **Leading Junior Cadet Xander**



Commanding Officer's Leadership Award went to **Able Cadet Scott**



President's Award for Exceptional Progress went to **Cadet Josh**



Unit Ambassador Award went to **Cadet First Class Tommy**



Most Boating Hours In The Year went to **Able Cadet Fred**

Pickle Night 2017

Following on from a busy parade season, most of the TS Otter cadets gathered for a formal dinner night. 'Pickle Night' celebrates the arrival in London of Lieutenant John Lapenotiere on HMS *Pickle*, carrying news of victory over the French and Spanish fleet at Trafalgar and the death of Lord Nelson. In contrast to Trafalgar Night, where the junior rates serve on the officers, in Pickle Night the roles are reversed and the junior rates are the guests.

With the unit specially decorated for the evening, this is a chance for the cadets to dress in their finest and be served a three course dinner followed by cheese and biscuits, all waited on by their instructors. Our Chaplain, Canon Roger Grey, was our Guest of Honour and Admin Officer, Debbie Bailey, acted as 'Mess President' in the absence of our senior cadets who were away on courses. Following some magnificent food prepared by Sharon Mercer and Sam Bailey, our Padre delivered a speech and raised the toast to the 'Immortal Memory' of Lord Admiral Nelson (don't worry, parents, it was cranberry juice, not port!) The lights were then raised for Cadet Molly to deliver fines on 'bad behaviour' during the meal. Unwary cadets were punished for talking with their mouth full, having their elbows on the table and leaving the table by having to walk like a penguin, sing 'I'm A Little Teapot' (with actions) and demonstrating legendary dances such as 'YMCA' and 'Gangnam Style'. We then all joined in some magnificently sung sea shanties, accompanied by Stuart Harrison on accordion which finished the meal formalities perfectly. The evening culminated in a disco: Padre gamely joined in at first but decided to bow out when the knee slides began.

It was a fantastic evening and great fun. Thank you to all the staff who gave up their Saturday night to make this so special.



The cadets gather for their special evening



And the dining begins



Chief Mercer getting ready to pass plates through to the eager serving staff



PO Mercer, CO and A/PO Bailey still smiling at the end of the evening!



The Toast to the Immortal Memory



Cadet Ryan shows his fellow fined cadets how to do the 'YMCA'

Transforming our Outside Space

As you know we have been talking about the renovation of our Outside Space for some time now and with the support and guidance of Carol Unwin of Green Space Creative, greenspacecreative.org, we are very pleased to state that we now have planning permission from Tewkesbury Council for this to go ahead. The hard work now really starts with raising funds to complete the project estimated to cost approximately £60,000. We already have a small start to this figure with generous donations from friends of the unit plus a successful grant application from the Children's Activity Fund through Gloucestershire County Council with the help of local Councillor Kevin Cromwell for £1,000.

We have a long way to go, but given the recent success of our Treasurer Geraldine Liddy, raising funds for the IT Suite, Adventure Training Equipment and matched funding for a new boat too, I am feeling rather confident. Many hours will now go into completing grant applications, fundraising events and getting various quotes for our proposed plans to include a new garage and store room, a bike shed, bin store, permeable tarmac surface, improved lighting and security and much more. This project will improve the look of our outside space, provide increased storage for equipment and improve the safety of all cadets and users of the parade ground for drill work, games, etc. It will also give us the benefit of an outdoor classroom to enable cadets to

KEY

- LAND FINISH
- BRICKS - 1/2" BOND
- CONCRETE
- PAVING/CONCRETE SURFACE
- GLASS
- STEEL FRAMING
- EXTERIOR BRICK - BOND
- ROOFING
- LANDSCAPE LIGHTS
- VEGETATION

PROJECT AIMS

Tewkesbury Sea Cadets want to refresh the outside space of their building for:

1. Providing the cadets, teachers and staff with a safe and secure outdoor area for training, social activities and parking a space suitable for the local community.
2. Improving the storage of equipment and materials.
3. Providing a safe and secure outdoor area for training, social activities and parking a space suitable for the local community.
4. Providing a safe and secure outdoor area for training, social activities and parking a space suitable for the local community.

PROPOSED NEW FEATURES

Concept image for new garage - see floorplan and views drawings for details

Proposed new walls in front of garage

Example of new permeable tarmac surfacing

Proposed new bike shelter - ASP 1000 - galvanneal and new powder coated blue new ASP 1000 - 1000 x 1000 x 1000

CLIENT: Tewkesbury Sea Cadets	PROJECT NO: SSC 001	DATE: 19.10.17	DATE: 19.10.17	DATE: 19.10.17
PROJECT: Outside Space Refurbishment	PROJECT TITLE: Design Plan	PROJECT NO: SSC 001.03	PROJECT NO: SSC 001.03	PROJECT NO: SSC 001.03

be educated in boat work and repairs and maintenance which we haven't been able to do at our unit before. This is an exciting time for us all and I am as always eternally grateful to our committee and staff for all their hard work and to our helpful parents and cadets for continuing to assist at our many fundraising events. We have a busy year ahead of us again 😊

Sarah Griffiths, Chairman

From Bavaria to Tewkesbury

In November, we had a special visit from a group of young visitors, complete with traditional costumes, from Miesbach, Germany. They were in town for a week, courtesy of the Tewkesbury District Twining Association and took the opportunity to spend an evening at the unit to see what the cadets learn as part of their training. In return, we were treated to some spectacular Bavarian folk dancing from some of the students. It was a fun evening and we do hope they are able to come again. Thank you to Dave Webb for organising this event and to Borough Mayor, Harry Turbyfield and his wife for helping us host our visitors.



The dancing gets underway



The Mayor and his wife amongst the assembled throng

TS Otter goes bowling



The logistics of getting 27 cadets and a bunch of instructors from TS Otter to a bowling centre in Gloucester seemed quite daunting but we all arrived ready and keen to notch up a few strikes. Everyone from first timers to the competitive Bowling Kings (they know who they are!) had a fantastic time. And we were amazed to see that Padre's rather unusual bowling technique (see photo) was actually successful! It might catch on, who knows...

Enormous thanks must go to CO for organising such a great evening out.



Ready to knock down some pins



That's either 'dabbing' or they can't bear to look at the scoreboard



And time for a breather...



Despite the smiles, the air was bristling with competition!

Grand Autumn Draw result



Cadets with our Town Mayor and Lady Mayoress

Our Grand Autumn Draw came to a conclusion at Tewkesbury Christmas Lights. Cadets, parents and UMT members ran a stall during the day and sold an amazing £381.60 of tombola and raffle tickets bringing the total raised (minus costs) to an incredible £1,006.36 towards our Outdoor Space project.

Congratulations to all our winners and many thanks to all of our wonderful sponsors, especially Engall Castle, M&Co and Cards & Gifts for their support and everyone who bought and sold tickets. Extra special thanks to our Treasurer, Geraldine Liddy, who organised the prizes and masterminded the whole draw.

Great Grant News

Our hard working Treasurer has been busy during the Autumn making bids from some of the generous charitable trusts we are lucky to have in the Gloucestershire area. These bids are made specifically to obtain equipment for the unit and its associated activities to help us continue to provide a fantastic experience for our cadets. We have had some great success in the last couple of months that cadets will start to benefit from very soon. An enormous thanks to the following organisations for making these purchases possible.

£500 from the **Langtree Trust** for camping and AT kit

£1,000 from the **Charles Irving Charitable Trust** for camping equipment



New camping kit getting unpacked and ready for a busy 2018



£1,050 from the **Bluespark Foundation** together with...

£1,050 match funding from the **Maritime Society & Sea Cadets** for a Zest sailing boat.

"Hang on...am I still in Tewkesbury?"

Finally, you will all be able to see the fantastic transformation of our IT room thanks to...

£3,500 from **One Stop Carriers for Causes** for refurbishing our IT room and equipping it with 6 laptops and a printer for cadets use.

£500 from the **Notgrove Trust** for a laptop and software

This is a project we have wanted to do for years and we're thrilled that it's now a reality.



'IT Room' before...



*...and after!
Laptops and
printer still to
be installed*



We are very grateful to these organisations for their generosity and to Geraldine Liddy, our Treasurer, for her persuasive skills in securing these grants for TS Otter.

Just Juniors

During November we revisited, basic knots and the phonetic alphabet making a frieze to go on display in the junior room. We played hangman using sign language, which wasn't as quite as you may think with the juniors keen to get the answer first.

We looked at appropriate clothing for different scenarios and continued this in a game which included eating chocolate once the clothing had been donned, when our German visitors joined us for the evening. This turned out to be a fast paced evening with lots of laughter and cheering each other on, some ate more chocolate than others! The juniors also took part in other unit activities which included Remembrance Day parade, poppy selling, Merchant Navy presentation and of course the unit bowling night.

November saw us say farewell to Angelique and Jacob as they left juniors and enrolled as senior cadets.

In December we had an evening of cooking which was popular with the juniors and also the wider unit who sampled their wares. The Juniors had a visit to Gloucester waterways museum and the ice-skating rink. This was a joint day out with Malvern and Hereford Junior sea cadets. This was a great success and we aim to do joint ventures again next year.

Our last evening of the year was the unit carol service which the juniors were actively involved in taking the figurines to the crib and eating lots of cake. What a wonderful end to the year.

PO Campbell-Reeves, OiC Juniors



Fun on the ice and fun at the museum!



Other things we've been up to...



Left: Another fantastic fund raising result! £565.77 was raised at the Tesco's Bag Pack and £90 from helping prepare the Abbey for its annual Christmas Fayre. Well done and thank you to everyone that helped out.

Below: Your editor felt like the paparazzi, spying on the Drill Training Team practising in the car park just before Christmas! We're pleased to report that CO is pleased with their progress and is very confident about the District Drill competition on Sunday 11th Feb at St Peter's High School, Gloucester. All parents and supporters most welcome!



Left: Our cadets were treated to a talk on naval careers at Malvern Unit and a presentation by our PO Hardie on a career in the merchant navy. They were fascinating and informative evenings. Huge thanks to our speakers for taking the time to inform our cadets.



Divisions are held the last Wednesday of each month which is when No1 uniform is worn and inspected, promotions and badges are issued. Cadets and juniors are asked to please make sure their uniform is ready for inspection.

Forthcoming dates:

28th February 2018

28th March 2018

25th April 2018

30th May 2018

Our details: TS Otter Headquarters: 01684 298991

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Useful Contacts

Role

Contact No

email

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PO (SCC) Rob Ashmeade	Training Officer	01684 275381	rob.ashmeade@uwclub.net
Reverend Roger Grey	TS Otter Chaplain		grey263@btinternet.com
PO (SCC) Stuart McGhee	Stores, uniform queries etc		
Jane Montellier	Secretary (inc newsletter & website)		secretary.tsotter@gmail.com

IMPORTANT:

IF YOU ARE GOING TO BE **ABSENT** PLEASE LET THE UNIT KNOW BY POSTING ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGE OR BY PHONING THE UNIT ON: 01684 298991

