



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

Autumn Newsletter Tewkesbury Sea Cadets

Autumn 2017 Final

www.sea-cadets.org/tewkesbury

Introduction toSub Lieutenant Dan Howells

Hi everyone, my name is Sub Lieutenant Howells. I joined the Sea cadets when I was 10 years old at Weston-super-Mare Sea Cadets in Avon district. I worked hard to reach the rate of Petty Officer Cadet, which led to me having extra responsibilities over other cadets and being able to put into practice the leadership qualities that I'd been taught. When I turned 18, I knew that I couldn't leave the organisation: I wanted to stay on to help other cadets to have the same great experiences that I did. Plus Sea Cadets felt like my extended family – and still does.

Sea Cadets has given me some incredible experiences, both as an adult and as a cadet. The offshore voyages that I went on were fantastic and I learned so much from the experiences – the fleet has been upgraded significantly since I went on them too!! Drill is one of my real passions within cadets, and something that I wouldn't have learned if I hadn't joined. I was so proud to attend the National Trafalgar parade in the 200th anniversary year as a member of the guard team, training the guard and taking part in the parade.

In the last few years, I have rediscovered my love of sailing. Sea cadets gave me the opportunity to start sailing again, even as an adult. I'm now a dinghy instructor and really enjoy teaching cadets and adults to sail. I have recently taken on the role of Assistant Area Staff Officer for sailing in the South West so that I can encourage others to become instructors and get more cadets sailing.

Since moving to Gloucestershire, I have continued to support Avon district as the Assistant District Officer. In this role, I support the district team by planning and organising training, events and competitions for both cadets and adults. I try to keep up to date with issues that are impacting cadets and staff, so that I can help shape the events that we provide. Being a part of Tewkesbury Sea Cadets allows me to interact with cadets and staff on a regular basis. This in turn keeps me in touch with their views on the Sea Cadets and helps me to impact decisions that the District team makes.

The staff and cadets at Tewkesbury have been so welcoming and friendly since I joined a little over a year ago. With such a great bunch of cadets together with focused and dedicated staff and committee, I've really enjoyed watching this strong Unit continue to achieve great things.

Sub Lieutenant Dan Howells



Sub Lt Dan Howells

Forthcoming Events 2017

Pickle Night - TS Otter	18 th Nov
Tewkesbury Christmas Lights & Grand Autumn Draw	19 th Nov
District Football Tournament	19 th Nov
Cadet Bowling Evening - Gloucester	20 th Nov
Abbey Christmas Fete set up	24 th Nov
Tesco's Bag Pack - Tewkesbury	25 th Nov
Abbey Christmas Fete put away	25 th Nov
Trip to Glos Waterways Museum (Jnrs)	2 nd Dec
Carol Candlelight Service and TS Otter's 75th Anniversary Commemoration	18 th Dec

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 Able Cadet

Ordinary Cadet Fred
Ordinary Cadet Ryan
Ordinary Cadet Zoe

Promotion to Cadet 1st Class

Cadet Amber
Cadet James I
Cadet Lewis
Cadet Tommy

Basic Seamanship

Cadet Ella

Basic Campcraft

Cadet 1st Class Molly

Basic Piping

Cadet 1st Class Molly

Intermediate First Aid

Able Cadet Scott

Offshore Grade 1

Cadet James I
Cadet Lewis

New Entry



Congratulations to Junior Cadet Ryan on his enrolment to Senior Cadet level.

Junior Cadet Promotions

Junior Cadet 1st Class Angelique - Leading Junior Cadet
Junior Cadet 1st Class Jacob - Leading Junior Cadet
Junior Cadet 1st Class Thomas - Leading Junior Cadet
Junior Cadet Nyah - Junior Cadet 1st Class
Junior Cadet Ryan - Junior Cadet 1st Class

Commodore's Broad Pennant

Junior Cadet Ryan

Module Badges

Yellow - Junior Cadet 1st Class Angelique
Yellow - Junior Cadet Ryan
Yellow - Junior Cadet 1st Class Thomas
Yellow - Leading Junior Cadet Xander
Red - Junior Cadet Ryan
Blue - Junior Cadet Ryan
Blue - Junior Cadet 1st Class Thomas
Blue - Leading Junior Cadet Xander
Green - Junior Cadet 1st Class Angelique
Green - Junior Cadet Ryan
Green - Leading Junior Cadet Xander



Some of the recent recipients of skill badges and promotions



Valued contribution is continued

The unit said goodbye to Leading Cadet Sam Bailey on reaching her 18th birthday. Sam has been an active and valued member of the TS Otter family and has contributed much during her time as a Sea Cadet.

Fortunately, we are not losing her from the unit as Sam is aiming to join us as a member of staff. She is currently working a probationary term at the Worcester Sea Cadet Unit and we greatly look forward to welcoming her home.

Padre Roger Grey, Chaplain - TS Otter

We do not forget

As has become our tradition, TS Otter Cadets played a full part in the Town's Remembrance commemorations. We began on Friday 10th November with a ceremony at Tewkesbury High School, conducted by Padre Roger Grey. Some 1500 pupils and staff, led by Head Teacher Gary Watson, turned out on a bright morning to observe two minutes' silence, with our own Cadets and those of the other uniformed youth organisations, parading under the command of Lt Matthews. The Cadets then paraded around the School to the front entrance for a wreath laying at the memorial to former High School student Able Seaman Matthew Stuart, killed in action aboard HMS Argonaut in the Falklands campaign on his 18th birthday, just months older than many of the students in attendance. We are most appreciative both of the School's determination to participate in Remembrance in such a poignant way and to recognise the contribution of uniformed youth organisations by encouraging students to wear uniform on the day.

Saturday saw the Cadets out in force in the Town centre for the early Poppy Appeal collecting shift. Despite some foul weather, tenacity and an audacious descent on a coach full of visitors as they debussed in the Crescent allowed the team to collect an impressive £269 in less than two hours before they gathered at the Cross at 11.00 am to mark the 99th anniversary of the Armistice.

Group Capt Clive Montellier (parent)



Photos by kind permission of **Jack Boskett**
<http://www.jackboskett.co.uk>

On Remembrance Sunday Tewkesbury Sea Cadets, under the command of Sub Lt Tristan Cooper, were privileged to take a full part in the Town's Remembrance Parade and Service in the Abbey. We were pleased to be supported in person by our District Officer, Lt Cdr M. Pritchard and to see a former CO, Lt Cdr Jason Kinghorn, as the Parade Commander.

In a packed Abbey, Able Cadet Scott carried the Sea Cadet Standard with his customary dignity and Able Cadet Zoe, with great composure, helped to lead the prayers. A remarkable age range, from little children to young people and adults, many representing local organisations, together with the Allied Rapid Reaction Corps based at Innsworth and other members of the armed forces, combined to remember the Fallen of two World Wars and other conflicts.



Our Sea Cadets parading through town and standing guard at the Cross Memorial

Then we gathered in our hundreds around the Memorial Cross in the Centre of the town, where some of the Sea Cadets provided the guard. The Last Post was sounded at 11.00 am and there followed the two minutes silence - it was as if the whole town was caught up in a profound stillness as a mark of Respect. The laying of wreaths came next led by the Town Mayor. Behind the scene, several of the Unit's staff worked un-obtrusively to ensure that all went well. Tewkesbury "Remembered" - that was for sure.

Padre Roger Grey, Chaplain - TS Otter



Sea Cadets playing their part in Remembering at Tewkesbury School

A wet Saturday morning did not deter our Cadets from collecting lots for the Poppy Appeal



The best young chef in the South West!



Amber surrounded by the South West Chef of 2017 judges.

Our Cadet Amber was crowned joint South West Chef of 2017 on 14th October following a closely fought final at Ashburton Cookery School. Amber's winning dish was Gloucester Old Spot pork belly with black pudding bonbons served with red cabbage, apple mash and a thyme infused cider reduction. The Head Judge for the competition was Michael Caines, a high profile chef with a glittering CV and many TV appearances to his credit. Amber was also interviewed by Nicky Price of BBC Gloucestershire the following week to tell him all about the competition.

Well done Amber - we are all very proud of you!



Amber's winning dish of Gloucester Old Spot pork



Amber hard at work in the kitchen

Prizes galore in our Autumn Draw - last call to get your tickets



Your Treasurer, Geraldine Liddy and Secretary, Jane Montellier, attempting to divert some of the Mop Fair's visitors' spending money into raffle ticket sales

We have a magnificent array of prizes on offer for our Grand Autumn Draw with a wonderful first prize of £100 cash, sponsored by *Engall Castle Estate Agents* of Tewkesbury. We have an additional £1,000 of prizes on offer including a luxury hamper and fantastic days out to attractions across the Gloucestershire area. Tickets went on sale at the Tewkesbury Mop Fair (with huge thanks to *James Danter* for the free stall) and raised £130 as a good start towards our Outside Space Project. *Engall Castle Estate Agents*, *M&Co* and *'Cards and Gifts'* in Tewkesbury High Street are kindly selling tickets for us as well as all our cadets and staff. We will have a stall at the Tewkesbury Christmas Lights event on 19th November where we will make the draw at around 4.30 pm. A huge thanks to all the shops, organisations and local attractions for their very generous donations to make this such an amazing draw. And most importantly, enormous thanks to our Treasurer, Geraldine Liddy, who made this all happen.

Tewkesbury Sea Cadets
Registered Charity No: 301637

Grand Autumn Draw

www.sea-cadets.org/tewkesbury

1st Prize - £100 cash
2nd Prize - Luxury hamper
3rd Prize - Family ticket to Spectacle of Lights at Sudeley Castle

Thank You for Your Support

Trafalgar Day Parade

Each October, TS Otter joins with other Sea Cadet Units in the Severn District to parade on Trafalgar Day. This year, the parade took place in Gloucester. After mustering by the Gloucester Unit, what seemed like an endless stream of staff and cadets marched through Gloucester's newly-refurbished Southgate en route to the City Hall for inspection and then on to the Cathedral for a service of commemoration. The service was led by David Moyes, Chaplain of the Gloucester Unit, who was assisted by our own Padre, Canon Roger Grey. This was followed by a return parade to the Docks area (a very suitable home for the Unit), with Lt Colonel Andrew Tabor, High Sheriff of Gloucestershire, taking the salute. Quite apart from a very fitting commemoration of the Royal Navy's signature battle honour, it was heartening to see the reaction of the Sunday shoppers to the sight of almost two hundred of Gloucestershire's youth looking so smart and purposeful. Well done to all.



An amazing rowing result



Our Junior Boys Rowing Team did us proud at the National Sea Cadet Competition and came 3rd. It was a very close result and our team were close to finishing 2nd - a fantastic performance! We are hugely proud of them.

Cadets James, Tommy, James, Matthew and Josh with their bronze medals



Flag Day in the rain



On a very wet day in September, TS Otter held their annual flag day. Despite the miserable weather, the kind people of Tewkesbury raised £570 towards our Outside Space Project. This was matched by a further £1,000 from Lloyds Bank organised by Sub Lt Dan Howells, raising a total of £1,570. Thank you to everyone who contributed and to the cadets and staff who gave up their time to fund raise.



Lots to do at Summer Camp 2017



From 18th-25th August, some fifty cadets from nearly every Unit in the Severn District, plus supporting staff, were at the Severn District Summer Camp held at an Army Cadet base near Pershore.

The first day was spent in camp where cadets in their Divisions energetically competed against each other in a variety of activities. This proved to be a valuable bonding session. On other days, trips were organised to Porthcawl on the Welsh coast, where a few hardy souls went swimming in the sea, and fish and chips plus a spectacular fireworks display were enjoyed by all. Drayton Manor proved a popular visit. One scary ride was quite enough for the District Chaplain, but cadets seemed to relish them all!! A visit nearer home, the Sailing Club at Whitefriars, provided an opportunity for cadets to go boating on a beautiful lake and try raft building. At least one cadet from TS Otter discovered the joys of sailing for the first time and is now a total convert.

This enjoyable week, in which friendships were renewed, or new ones formed, would not have been possible but for the hard work put in by staff drawn from many Units in the District. We are grateful to the staff for giving up their time and, as always, putting the cadets first.

Roger Grey, District Chaplain, Severn District



Support For Town Mayor



Picture by kind permission of Ian Bartlett

It is to be welcomed that the beginning of the town mayoral year is marked by the new Mayor and councillors attending a civic service in Tewkesbury Abbey. Tewkesbury Sea Cadets were pleased to be part of the Mayor's Civic Parade on Sunday 17th September and to join in this service. This further strengthens the existing bond between the Unit and the civic authorities.

Padre Roger Grey, Chaplain - TS Otter

Tribute to the District Officer of Severn District

In the Sea Cadet Corps structure, the local Unit is key. Then comes the District, that exists to encourage and monitor the highest standards in the delivery of the sea cadet experience within the local Units.

Lt Cdr (SCC) Michael Pritchard RNR, is retiring at the end of the year as District Officer of the Severn District. Affectionately known as "Father Christmas" because of his luxuriant and bushy white beard, his dedication to the welfare of cadets is of the highest order. Fulsome tributes will no doubt flow in due course. In this brief tribute, one outstanding achievement comes to mind from many that could be mentioned. Mike Pritchard instituted and inspired the running of a District Summer Camp over many years. This has been a unique venture, in which hundreds of cadets from Units in the Severn District have had 'serious fun' and formed lasting friendships. He will be the first to say that the dedication of the adults running the camps is the reason for their undoubted success, but he has been the inspiration and leader throughout.

We very much hope that our District Officer will continue to serve the Sea Cadet Corps in some other capacity when he retires, and we welcome as his successor in the New Year, another dedicated Sea Cadet Officer, Lt (SCC) Martyn Barber RNR.



Lt Cdr (SCC) Michael Pritchard RNR - our District Officer

Padre Roger Grey, Chaplain - TS Otter and District Chaplain



Christmas Shopping...?



With Christmas fast approaching, did you know that whenever you buy anything online - from your weekly shop to your annual holiday - you could be collecting free donations for Tewkesbury Sea Cadets? There are over 3,000 shops and sites on board ready to make a donation, including Amazon, John Lewis, Aviva, thetrainline and Sainsbury's – it doesn't cost you a penny extra! It's as easy as 1, 2, 3...

1. Head to <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/tewkesburyseacadets/> and join for free.
2. Every time you shop online, go to easyfundraising first to find the site you want and start shopping.
3. After you've checked out, that retailer will make a donation to your good cause for no extra cost whatsoever!

There are no catches or hidden charges and Tewkesbury Sea Cadets will be really grateful for your donations. Since Tewkesbury Sea Cadets signed up with easyfundraising we have received **£257** from the cause. **We'd love you to help us increase this.**

Sarah Griffiths, Chairman

National Adventure Training Week



Cadets Ellie, Scott and Fred in front of a glorious Cumbrian backdrop.

At half term, cadets Fred, Scott and Ellie went to the Lake District for a week of multi-activity adventure training.

On the first day, all of the cadets on the course went on a day walk up some hills to learn how to use a compass and take bearings. Although the weather wasn't the best, it was still a good experience.

On day two we were split into groups: one group walking and the other mountain biking through a woodland area. The course was specific for mountain biking and involved negotiating tree roots, bends and sizeable puddles. At one point we stopped to have a go at a downhill track with lots of bumps and a large puddle. This is where Scott managed to go over his handle bars landing in the puddle with the bike on top of him. Fortunately no harm was done!

The other days included more hill walking and mountain biking and one was spent at Kendal climbing centre (which has one of the largest indoor walls in the country).

Overall it was an excellent week, we gained a lot of experience and have come back with some qualifications.

Able cadet Fred



A Unique Experience Afloat

Two of our cadets have returned from a unique experience afloat. Cadet 1st Class James and Cadet 1st Class Lewis formed part of the crew that went off-shore in TS Jack Petchy, a sea-going craft used by Sea Cadets from Units throughout the country.

This character forming and challenging experience took our two cadets from Portishead, where they boarded, to Plymouth, where they disembarked. James particularly enjoyed navigating during night sails. I am not sure whether "bumping my head" in a cabin shared with six others was a plus or a minus, but the reference seemed to come under the category of fond memories!

Lewis clearly valued the bond of friendship that developed between the cadets on board and the fun had on their runs ashore. Sailing out of Bristol as a spectacular sunrise began and the City lights still twinkled was a memory he clearly cherishes.

It is to be hoped that this unique experience of time at sea will attract many more of our Cadets to put their names down for possible selection. Some of the trips are during term time, but schools readily see the value they offer in terms of character formation and the discovery of new skills.

Padre Roger Grey, Chaplain - TS Otter



JUST JUNIORS

We have been doing lots of activities since coming off the water and starting our winter programme. September has seen us roaming the streets of Tewkesbury whilst carrying out our chip shop survey, exploring Hindu patterns and decorating lamps for Diwali, the festival of light. We have also joined in on whole unit activities such as the Flagday, the Mayor's Civic Parade and Ryan joined in on the Adventurous Training weekend.

In October, the Able Cadets came and taught some sessions in preparation for their Peer Educator Course, which included making compasses, navigation, emergency calls, using the radios, playing battleships and team building games. We have also looked at basic knots, the phonetic alphabet and how to spot and counter bullying. Juniors also joined the unit on the Trafalgar Day Parade, which was a first for some of our newer members.

We said farewell to Ryan in September as he left the junior section and was enrolled as a senior cadet. November will see us preparing to say farewell to Angelique and Jacob as they too leave juniors and enrol as senior cadets. September and October saw us welcoming two new juniors to Tewkesbury sea cadets - Ben and Tegan.

As you can see we have been extremely busy this term.

PO Campbell-Reeves - OiC Juniors



We REALLY enjoyed the chip shop survey!



Junior Cadets hard at work making their Diwali lamps



Our Junior Cadets joined others in the Severn District to proudly take part in the Trafalgar Day Parade

Master Mariner Hardie

We are delighted to announce that Chief Petty Officer Sarah Hardie has just completed her Master Mariner's certification. This qualification is the pinnacle of a deck career and allows her to sail a vessel of any size, power or type - an amazing addition to her already impressive CV. Many congratulations to Sarah!



Our Candlelight Carol Service - date for your diary

Our traditional Candlelight Carol Service will take place at the Unit on **Monday 18th December** at **19.15 hrs.** Once again, we welcome members of the Tewkesbury Town Band, who will provide the music. A new addition to the service this year will be a reference to it being our 75th Anniversary. All parents and supporters of the unit are most welcome to attend alongside our Cadet Corps. Mince pies and mulled wine will be served following the service.



STOP PRESS - This will also be the occasion for marking the retirement of our District Officer, Lt Cdr (SCC) M Pritchard RNR as District Officer of Severn District and the commissioning of his successor, Lt (SCC) M Barber RNR.

Padre Roger Grey, Chaplain - TS Otter

Christmas notice

TS Otter would like to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Our final meeting will be on
Monday 18th December 2017

and we reopen on
Wednesday 3rd January 2018.



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:

29th November 2017

24th January 2018

28th February 2018

28th March 2018

Our details: TS Otter Headquarters: 01684 298991
www: sea-cadets.org/tewkesbury

email: Tewkesburyseacadets@gmail.com

Useful Contacts	Role	Contact No	email
Sub Lt (SCC) Tristan Cooper RNR	Commanding Officer	07956 459387	tristancooper@live.co.uk
Sarah Griffiths	Chairman – Unit Management Team	07834 724162	umc.tsotter@gmail.com
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

