



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

# Newsletter

## Tewkesbury Sea Cadets

Summer 2017 final

[www.sea-cadets.org/tewkesbury](http://www.sea-cadets.org/tewkesbury)

### Introduction to .....PO Anderson

I wanted my children to get a head start in life, you know, really gain some experiences that would help them develop into smart, rounded adults. I knew the answer was a youth organisation of some kind, so why Tewkesbury Sea Cadets? I have a bit of history with the sea you see.

First of all I joined the Royal Navy (RN) in 1986 as an apprentice and it was probably one of the best things I ever did. Not the best, of course, that would be getting married to my lovely wife (she will be reading this!) During my time in the RN, I travelled to Florida, Seychelles, Egypt, Dubai, UAE and other places I'm not allowed to tell you about and learned a heck of a lot about life and the world at large. I also learnt a lot about engineering and electronics, part of my apprenticeship you see. The RN do train you well, that is for sure.

Second, I got into sailing in 2009 when I was invited to take part in a sailing regatta. I'm a bit of a late starter with sailing, but I've got my teeth into it now though. I followed the RYA training programme and I'm now a Commercially Endorsed Yachtmaster (Offshore) and RYA Yachtmaster Navigation Instructor.

So a youth organisation that fostered activity around the water seemed the natural choice and when I looked into the Tewkesbury unit, well.... They seemed to be winning all the competitions, have good reviews and great and friendly staff. Now, I could have chosen the Tewkesbury Sea Cadets for my two little cherubs, dropped them off and gone home for an hour, only driving back to pick them up afterwards. But, then, that seemed a bit of a waste of fuel and by the time I got home, what else could I do in the intervening time anyway? So why not help out, I thought. I've some knowledge, skills and experience to bring with me: not that it is always needed, enthusiasm is probably more important.

Now I'm enjoying helping put the cadets through their paces with the new fleet of dinghies we have: the new RS Quest dinghies are simply fantastic! The toppers and other dinghies make an excellent training fleet for sailing and great fun on the water. In the winter I switch to sharing my RN experience through fun and games with the Cadet Training Programme, navigation skills and Communication Information Systems (CIS) specialisations.

*PO Anderson*



*PO David Anderson*

### Forthcoming Events 2017

Summer Camp	18 <sup>th</sup> -25 <sup>th</sup> Aug
National AT weekend - Snowdonia	24 <sup>th</sup> -28 <sup>th</sup> Aug
Airport Safety Rescue - Staverton Airport	7 <sup>th</sup> Sept
Flag Day - Tewkesbury High Street	9 <sup>th</sup> Sept
Race Night - TS Otter	16 <sup>th</sup> Sept
Mayor's Civic Parade - Tewkesbury	17 <sup>th</sup> Sept
District Trafalgar Day - Gloucester	22 <sup>nd</sup> Oct
Pickle Night	TBC Nov
Remembrance Sunday	12 <sup>th</sup> Nov
Abbey Fete set up/down	24 <sup>th</sup> / 25 <sup>th</sup> Nov
Tesco Bag Pack - Tewkesbury	25 <sup>th</sup> Nov

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**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 Ordinary Cadet

Cadet First Class Lauren

#### Promotion to Cadet First Class

Cadet Josh  
Cadet Marnie  
Cadet Molly

#### Basic First Aid

Cadet Amber  
Cadet Ella  
Cadet Lewis  
Cadet Molly  
Cadet Nathaniel

#### Intermediate First Aid

Cadet Josh  
Cadet Tommy

#### Power Boating Level 1

Cadet Amber  
Cadet Courtney  
Cadet Ella  
Cadet Lewis

#### Windsurfing

Ordinary Cadet Fred  
Cadet First Class James M  
Cadet Marnie  
Cadet Molly

#### One Year's Good Conduct

Cadet Ella  
Cadet Josh  
Cadet Marnie  
Cadet Molly

#### New Entry

Congratulations to Cadets Ellie, Nathan and Kav on their enrolment to Cadet level



*Recipients of skill badges and promotions with the Unit Burgee and the Area Junior Boys Rowing Certificate*

#### Stage II Sailing

Cadet Josh

#### Stage III Sailing & Star Racing Module

Cadet Lewis  
Cadet Matthew  
Cadet James I  
Cadet First Class James L  
Cadet Tommy

## Remembering Able Seaman Matthew Stuart

Tewkesbury Sea Cadets, who are also students at Tewkesbury School, will know of a tree planted in the school grounds to commemorate Matthew Stuart, himself a former student. He served in the Royal Navy in the Falklands War, where he died at the age of 18 when his ship was sunk by enemy action. He has no known grave. On the 35th anniversary of his death, a quiet ceremony was held at the tree, where a wreath was laid by the Head Teacher, Mr Watson, prayer was offered by our Padre and Sea Cadets were in attendance. Matthew made the ultimate sacrifice. Thirty five years on, we do not forget.



*Cadet Matthew with the wreath laid at Able Seaman Matthew Stuart's tree*



*Cadets Matthew, Courtney and Marnie pay their respects*

## Tewkesbury Unit awarded top efficiency award and a Captain's Commendation!



Tewkesbury Sea Cadets, like all 400 units across the UK, enjoy a close working relationship with the MOD and the Royal Navy. A rigorous annual assessment by our district team occurs during April and, in addition to this, every 2 years sees the unit further assessed by our area team, led by our Area Officer, Commander Morton RN. After a change of date for these assessments, March and April were incredibly busy. Not only were our cadets beginning their boating activities for the season, but all staff and committee members were busy behind the scenes ensuring all paperwork and administrative trails were on top form ready for this assessment

The Royal Navy Parade was once again used by the unit as an opportunity to celebrate the year's successes. We brought in a plethora of VIP's including mayors, Deputy Lord Lieutenants, local school headmasters and many other notable people associated with the unit. All concerned agreed that this was a great celebratory evening and my personal thanks to all the staff and committee for their tireless efforts in the lead up to this event.

I'm delighted to confirm that both assessments were a great success - as is becoming the norm for our unit, we were awarded a Burgee efficiency award. There are 4 different levels of efficiency awards that can be given. 1) Fail 2) Pass 3) Pennant 4) Burgee. This award put us in the top 15% of units across the country. However, in addition to this, we were also delighted to hear we were awarded a Captains Commendation, which is awarded at a national level to a handful of units each year. We were lucky enough to gain our first ever Captain's Commendation in 2015, and to be awarded another just 2 years later is unheard of and is evidence that, as a unit, we are performing excellently. What I am most proud of is to see our cadets getting a diverse and fun cadet experience. Each cadet has gained an average of 53 boating hours each over the last 12 months and most have gained qualifications, participated in unit, district and area courses and also participated and been very successful at a range of competitions.

Our unit is very lucky to have Mrs Sarah Griffiths at the helm of the Committee as our unit's Chairperson. Her continuous hard work behind the scenes is the reason for our success. Thank you for everything you do, Sarah!

*Commanding Officer Sub Lt (SCC) T Cooper*

### Comments from the Inspecting Officers:

#### Commander Morton RN (South West Area Officer of the Sea Cadets):

"This (RNP) confirmed the fact that TS OTTER is a high quality unit. (The unit has) a strong and hardworking team of UMT members and Instructors; both are extremely well led by very competent and capable UMC and CO, who have every justification in taking great pride in their achievements".



#### Captain Russell RN (Captain of the Sea Cadets):

"You are providing an outstanding cadet experience and what is particularly impressive is the smooth, well-planned and executed manner in which it has been achieved. I know it has been the result of a lot of hard work by all and I am delighted to award you your Burgee and a CSC Commendation. Very well done."



## Sun - Sea - Success - Weymouth - 16th to 18th June

Led by our CO, 14 cadets and 6 staff from TS Otter invaded the Sea Cadet Training Centre at Weymouth recently for a weekend of sailing, power-boating and windsurfing. It was hot, it was challenging, it was fun (!) and crowned with success as every cadet gained a qualification in his or her chosen activity.

With the sun blazing down, there is no better place to be than on the sea. That is where our cadets were put to the test in a variety of craft. The power-boating included managing a RIB (Rigid Inflatable Boat) that went very fast as it sped across Weymouth Bay. Asked what she enjoyed most about the weekend, one of our cadets told her mother: "seeing a terrified padre clinging on for dear life as the RIB bounced across the bay!" The sailors learnt how to harness wind and sea conditions to maximise speed and, those sailing as a crew of two, the all important art of working as a team. Excellent teaching and advice were readily available from instructors in the two safety boats constantly on hand. In a separate article, one of the windsurfers tells us about the Weymouth weekend as experienced by four of our cadets.

It was a great privilege to watch our cadets gain so much in confidence and skill. They were a credit to themselves, their unit and their families. But the weekend would not have been possible without the dedication to the welfare of the cadets shown by our staff. For several of them, it meant giving up a weekend after a busy week at work and, for all of them, time away from family and friends. We owe a great debt of gratitude to our CO, Sub Lt Tristan Cooper, Lt Ron Matthews, Sub Lt Daniel Howells, PO David Anderson, CI Stuart Bailey and PO Paul Mercer. No Less appreciated are the staff and facilities of the Weymouth Sea Cadet Training Centre.

*Padre Roger Grey, Chaplain, TS Otter*



*The RS Quest gets put into action on the sea*



*Everything is under control...!*



*Cadets Molly and James M try out windsurfing...*



*...whilst others have a go in the 'RIB'. Looks like Padre has disembarked!*



*And back at the Training Centre*

## District Regatta Success for TS Otter

As detailed in the sister article, over the weekend of 10th-11th June, our Unit hosted a very successful District Regatta. The Tewkesbury Sailing Club kindly agreed to the Severn District using the Club on a beautiful stretch of the River Avon, so the scene was set for the coming together of 10 District Units to compete in a number of different boating events.

The competing cadets had to contend with a strong wind which made steering a boat pretty challenging. Saturday saw the power boat handling and kayaking events, then on Sunday it was the turn of the junior and senior rowers including our chance to use the new yoles delivered earlier this year. Our Unit saw great success over the weekend, with our Junior Boys Rowing Team storming to first place, trailing the competition behind them. Cadets Scott and Lauren put in an extraordinary effort in the girls yole, boys yole and mixed yole, particularly as they had only practiced this discipline for a matter of weeks beforehand. The success of our boys rowing team, yoles, power boat handling and kayaking all meant we went on to represent the District in the Area Regatta, to be held on 8th July...more news about that below! TS Otter also crowned these successes with becoming the overall winners of the Severn District Regatta 2017. We wish to thank PO Mercer, our Boats Officer, for his hard work in making this happen and all the staff who helped make it such a fantastic weekend.



*Cadets Lauren & Scott in action in the Mixed Yoles*



*Kayaking on a very windy Saturday*



*The Junior Boys Rowing Team catch their breath following their final race*



*Power boat handling on a choppy Avon!*



*The Junior Boys Rowing Team proudly hold their certificates for their first place*



*Cadet Scott accepts the certificate for overall winners from DO Pritchard. And the crowd goes wild!!*

## And even more Regatta success!



We are thrilled to say that our Junior Boys Rowing Team went on to even further success at the Area Regatta on 8th July and came first! They will now go on to represent the South West Area at the national finals in London later this year.

We also had great success in other disciplines with Cadet Lauren coming 3rd in girls yoles and our power boating team coming 2nd - the best result for TS Otter in years.

And finally...Cadet Ellie took part in the Area Kayaking competition on 12th August and came 3rd in the Senior Girls.

Well done everyone - a fantastic result!



## Weymouth Windsurfing



The Unit weekend at the Sea Cadet Training Centre, Weymouth, also provided four of our cadets with an opportunity to learn windsurfing. Cadet Molly tells us that they first learnt how to stand upright on the windsurfing board whilst in the shallows of a bay. Then they were taught to pull up the sail, followed by the challenging experience of actually windsurfing in the bay. We congratulate the following cadets, Molly, Marnie, Fred and James M, on achieving their Stage One in Windsurfing.

## 2017 District Regatta Results

Here are the full Regatta results for TS Otter:

Rowing:	Junior Boys	1st
	Open girls	4th
	Juniors	5th (Joint Hereford)
Power Boat Handling:		1st
Sail Boat Handling:		only entry
Yoles:	Mixed Doubles	1st
	Single Male	1st
	Single Female	1st
Kayaking:	Junior Boys	2nd
	Junior Girls	3rd
Overall Rowing:		1st
Overall Paddlesport:		3rd
<b>Overall Regatta:</b>		<b>1st</b>

## Amber, Gloucestershire Junior Chef, 2017



Amber with judges David Everitt-Matthias, Gus Ashenford and Renark Cousins

Cadet Amber has beaten the competition at the South West Junior Chef Gloucestershire semi-final on 12th July wowing the judges with a pork belly dish that they said had "exceptional flavour". Amber, who was entered into the competition via her school, was judged against five other semi-finalists by three top chefs from Gloucestershire.

Amber said: *"I am thrilled to have got to the final and I am really excited to be working with Chef Gus Ashenford. It's a real honour!"*

So, Amber is now on her way to the final which will be held on Saturday 14th October 2017 at Ashburton, Devon. We will all have our fingers crossed for her!

## Tewkesbury hosts the 2017 District Regatta

The weekend of 10th-11th June marked our very first District Regatta held at the Tewkesbury Sailing Club. It was two years since our last District Regatta, which is usually held at Lower Lode (it was cancelled last year due to high water). We are very grateful to the Commodore of the Club, Mrs D Bailey and the committee, for their permission to use such excellent facilities. Cadets came from all over the district to vie for a place in the Area Regatta in July and the grass verge was transformed into a camping site to accommodate many staying over. But campers need feeding, so an all day tea and coffee station together with a barbeque was run magnificently by committee members Sharon Mercer and Sarah Griffiths, with some fantastic help from mums Caroline McCoubrie, Alison Ricketts, Nicola Clay and Nicky O'Reilly (and son). We couldn't have done it without them. All this, plus a very impressive stack of delicious cakes donated by parents, vying with a well stocked 'Stand Easy' stall for cadet pocket money!

Saturday saw a number of VIP visitors in attendance including Commander Nigel Morton RN, Area Officer for the SW Area, The High Sheriff of Gloucestershire, Lt Colonel Andrew Tabor, his son Piers and guest Brig Chris Coles. The High Sheriff was very interested in all aspects of what the cadets do and expressed an interest in a possible future visit to TS Otter. Our President, Mrs. Anne Cadbury was also in attendance to welcome our guests. As Sunday was rowing day and warmer weather, this meant the Regatta was incredibly busy and buzzing with atmosphere. Whilst we waited for the results to be collated for the prize giving, we were entertained by some very enthusiastic formation dancing by cadets and staff. No better way to polished off such a great weekend - we are already looking forward to next year!



*Sharon Mercer and Nicola Clay working hard on Barbie Duty*



*Padre looking after the Stand Easy Stall*



*Our VIP guests on Saturday*



*'Commander Juno' being very well behaved*



*Tired cadets resting before the presentations*



*Dancing time!*



## Annual General Meeting - 15<sup>th</sup> June 2017

In June we held our AGM and were delighted to see so many of you there. A huge thank you to staff, parents and guests, including members of the District Team and our Town Mayor, Cllr Peggy Clatworthy who came to support the committee at this important annual event. Due to increasing work commitments, we had to say goodbye to Mike Fyles, who has been our Treasurer for the last year, stepping in when we were in desperate need of filling the role and doing a fantastic job for us. It was also our pleasure to welcome Geraldine Liddy to the committee. Geraldine has taken over from Mike as Treasurer and she brings a wealth of experience with her. I'd also like to express my thanks to our Unit President, Mrs Anne Cadbury, who has again kindly offered to remain in post and who is one of our biggest supporters and champion of the Unit.

I have pleasure in announcing your elected Unit Trustees as follows:

- Sarah Griffiths – Chairman
- Geraldine Liddy – Treasurer
- Jane Montellier – Secretary
- Bob Skelt – Health & Safety
- Sharon Mercer – Housekeeper

We are also hugely supported by our CO Tristan Cooper and Padre Roger Grey along with our Unit President Anne Cadbury and Vice Presidents Mike Bennett and Ted Keeper.

*Sarah Griffiths, Chairman*

## Congratulations to our newly promoted instructors



*Chief McGhee, 2nd right and Chief Mercer, 4th right*

This summer, we have been delighted to see our instructors promoted. Both Stuart McGhee and Paul Mercer passed their promotions board with flying colours and now hold the rank of Chief Petty Officers (SSC). Plus, those of us at the District Regatta also saw David Anderson being promoted to substantive Petty Officer.

A huge well done to them!



*PO Anderson accepts his promotion from Lt Cdr Pritchard*



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 **£251** for the cause.

*Sarah Griffiths, Chairman*



## The Royal Family - Buckingham Palace - Iced Coffee!

The Padre writes:

"The Lord Chamberlain is commanded by Her Majesty to invite..."

Those were the opening words of the invitation our CO, Sub Lt Tristan Cooper and I each received to attend a Garden Party at Buckingham Palace on the 16th May. Whisked up to London by the CO in his car - chaotic traffic skilfully negotiated by him, as was a pre-arranged parking space within yards of where we needed to be. Then it was off to the nearby RAF Club to change into our uniforms - a facility made possible through the kindness of Group Captain Clive Montellier OBE RAF, a great supporter of TS Otter.



To the Palace next - Ascot Hats galore (no, not the Padre) - through the gates and across the front quadrangle (seen so many times on television) - into the inner quadrangle and entry to the Palace itself via the stairs used by the Queen. Time only to catch a glimpse of imposing portraits; the gold-leafed columns; the cabinets displaying china - yet somehow 'homely' too. Then it was into the wonderful garden with military bands playing and paths to explore before seeing the Queen, Prince Philip and other members of the Royal Family, moving among the many guests. I've always wanted to try iced coffee and the Tea Tent beckoned. I was not disappointed! Delicate sandwiches and tempting cakes soon filled the inner man.

The memory of that Garden Party is something I will always treasure - not least because from the moment I left home to my safe return, I could not have had a more considerate and congenial companion than our CO. I owe him, and Mrs Cadbury our Unit President, who nominated us, a great debt of gratitude.

*Padre Roger Grey, Chaplain, TS Otter*

## Welcome to our new Treasurer



We are thrilled to welcome Geraldine Liddy as our new Treasurer. Geraldine has lived in Tewkesbury for 15 years and has a teenage son in the local Explorer Scouts and her daughter has just been enrolled as a Sea Cadet in our Unit. She is an Accountant by day and in her spare time is a Trustee of the Tewkesbury Battlefield Society plus, for the last five years, has held the role of Finance Director for the annual Tewkesbury Medieval Festival. In addition to these responsibilities, Geraldine has, for the last three years, organised and run the fantastic medieval themed parade that takes place on the Sunday of the Med Fest weekend. Her skill at accessing funds has already paid dividends for TS Otter as she has obtained a grant for us to buy a new vacuum cleaner and fryer for boating weekends. We are very lucky to have her!

## JUST JUNIORS

We have some sad news to announce...CI Stella Ashmeade will be leaving us in September as she is starting a new job that will limit the evening time she has available. The good news is that PO Ruth Campbell-Reeves will be stepping into Stella's shoes and will be running the Juniors' activities on Wednesday nights. We wish Stella all the very best for the future and thank her for the fantastic work she has done for TS Otter - she leaves us with a fun and vibrant Juniors Section!

As well as representing the Unit at the Junior Regatta, our juniors have had some great opportunities to go on Adventure Training and Junior Activity weekends this summer and the feedback we have had from them and their parents is that they have had a wonderful time, as these photos prove...

*A misty morning on Dartmoor, but the Juniors are ready for action*



*Surely this many Sherlock Holmeses will be able to solve the mystery of the Hound of The Baskervilles!*



*Junior Cadet Ryan 'doing time' at the Dartmoor Prison Museum*

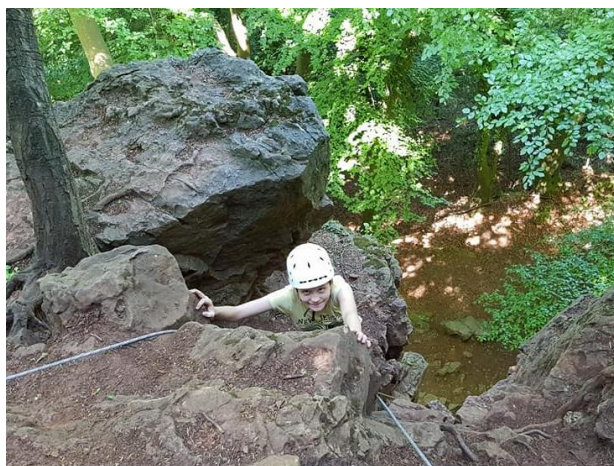


### Adventure Training - It's What It Says!!

I'm Junior Cadet 1st Class Xander. I went on the Wye Valley Adventure Training Weekend. It was indescribable fun! I made loads of new friends and met tons of people. The particular part of this weekend that I liked a lot was the climbing. It was really enjoyable and it was even up a vertical cliff face! I would recommend the walks as well - they were awesome! We even saw falcon babies! I hope to go on another Adventure Training Weekend soon.

*Junior Cadet 1st Class Xander*

*Junior Cadet Angelique scales a rock face at the Adventure Training weekend*





**Other things we've been up to!**



Our Unit has a great local reputation for car park marshalling! Here we are taking care of cars at the Medieval Festival (*left*) and taking extra special care of one particular car at the Tewkesbury Half Marathon (*right*)



Tewkesbury Sea Cadets "T.S. Otter" try out Moog's Stewart F1 Car



Sunday 25th June was Armed Forces Day. TS Otter paraded, as usual, with other local uniformed groups. Our Vice President, Col M Bennett, took the salute alongside the Tewkesbury Borough Mayor, outside the town hall. The parade was followed by a service of thanksgiving at the Methodist Church.

**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:**

30<sup>th</sup> August 2017

27<sup>th</sup> September 2017

25<sup>th</sup> October 2017

29<sup>th</sup> November 2017

**Our details:** TS Otter Headquarters: 01684 298991

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Useful Contacts	Role	Contact No	email
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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

