



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

Tewkesbury Sea Cadets Newsletter - Winter 2018/19

Welcome from our President, Lt Col Andrew Tabor

It gives me the greatest pleasure to write this article for the newsletter as the new President of Tewkesbury Sea Cadets, having taken over from Mrs Anne Cadbury in the New Year. A tribute to Mrs Cadbury for her many years of exceptional service to the unit follows later in this publication.

I was fortunate enough to visit TS Otter on a number of occasions during my year as High Sheriff of Gloucestershire and could see what an exceptionally well run and happy unit it was. So when I was asked to assume the role of President I had no hesitation in accepting. I have some experience of the Royal Navy having worked in both the Permanent Joint Headquarters at Northwood, responsible for planning for and commanding all the UK's operations, and the Joint Services Staff College but I have predominantly served in Army jobs both within my Regiment, the Light Dragoons, a light reconnaissance unit, and on the staff in a variety of headquarters including the Ministry of Defence. As Commanding Officer of Cambridge University Officers Training Corps I had some responsibility for the Army Cadet Force in the County as Deputy Affiliated Formation Commander for Cadets.

Leaving the Army in 2001 I attended the Royal Agricultural College for a year before taking over as partner and farm manager of a predominantly arable farm in the North Cotswolds, which has recently entered the Higher Level Stewardship Scheme, which seeks to improve the habitat for farmland birds. A magistrate since 2004, I run a mock trial competition for primary schools in Cheltenham, which teaches children, mainly from Year 6, about the criminal justice system and develops their confidence in public speaking. I am the Chairman of my local Royal British Legion branch, serve on the County Committee of ABF The Soldiers' Charity, am an ambassador for Hope Support Services and Alabaré Gloucestershire Home for Veterans and am also closely involved with the Aston Project and Gloucestershire Young Carers.

It is a great honour to be your President and I look forward to meeting and supporting the Unit Management Committee, staff and cadets of TS Otter and sharing your successes and challenges over the years to come.



Lt Col Andrew Tabor

Forthcoming Events in 2019

TS Otter President's Visit	27th February
District Training	2nd-4th March
Juniors' Weekend (Hereford)	8th-10th March
Area Drill Comp (HMS Raleigh)	15th-17th March
District Training	22nd-24th March
Unit Review	1st May

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 Promotions & Awards

Congratulations to our cadets (and staff)

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

Promotion to Petty Officer Cadet

Huge Congratulations to Leading Cadet Ryan on his promotion to Petty Officer Cadet - the highest cadet rank and the first for TS Otter in six years.



LC Ryan (back left) at the Milford Haven Advancement Board

Basic CIS

Cadet Xander
Cadet Joe

Stewarding Instructor

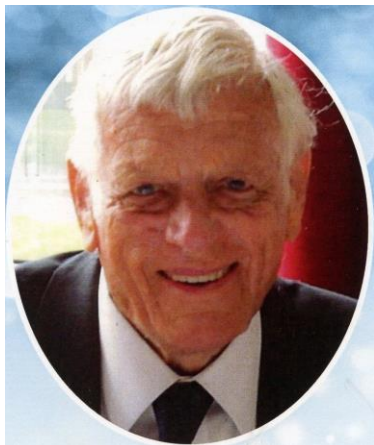
PO Campbell-Reeves

New Entries

Congratulations to Junior Cadets Adam, Bethany Verity (top photo), plus Nyah and Ben (lower photo) on their enrolment to Senior Cadet Level...



In Loving Memory of Ted Keeper BEM



In the last newsletter, tribute was paid to Ted Keeper on his resignation as one of our two Unit Vice-Presidents. He was suffering from increasing ill health.

We are sorry to report that Ted died on the 16th January at the age of 83. To Margaret Keeper and the family, we send our deepest sympathy on their loss.

It is also a loss felt by many others as a packed Abbey Church at his funeral service bears witness. Among those who attended was a contingent from TS Otter led by our Commanding Officer, Lt Tristan Cooper. Among the tributes given was one from a former CO, Lt Cdr Jason Kinghorn. Several standards (flags) were paraded, including one from the Hermes Association as a reminder that Ted was proud to have served on HMS Hermes when he was in the Fleet Air

Arm of the Royal Navy. There were also standards from the Tewkesbury Branch of the Royal Naval Association of which he was a revered and proud member.

For most of his working life, Ted served the community of Tewkesbury with distinction as a Police Officer. In this capacity he went well beyond the call of duty helping individuals and groups to achieve their goals. His warm smile won many hearts and he could also be resolute when required.

Tewkesbury Sea Cadet Unit proudly recalls and pays tribute to this good man, who serves us so well for many years as a member of the Management Committee and latterly as a Vice-President. He cared about us. May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

Padre Roger Grey, Chaplain, TS Otter

Anne Cadbury - coming ashore!

Tewkesbury Sea Cadets know how fortunate we have been in having Mrs Anne Cadbury as our President and, on her retirement, wish to record our gratitude for her many years of devoted service to the Unit. She has taken a keen and active interest in all that we do. She was appointed an Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) in recognition of her active service to many good causes and a Deputy Lieutenant for the County of Gloucestershire (DL). Now in her 90s, but still as sharp as ever, we are one of the last organisations in the County to take leave of her as President and she will be hugely missed. As an illustrious President comes ashore, we warmly welcome aboard her successor, whose profile is on the front page of this Newsletter.

Padre Roger Grey, Chaplain TS Otter



TS Otter - officially the best unit in the South West

In December's Area Conference, Tewkesbury Sea Cadets were awarded the Stephenson Trophy, which is given to the best unit in the South West Area. Our CO, Lt Tris Cooper, is incredibly proud of this achievement, as it has been his long held aspiration that our unit received this. We will now go forward to be the area's nomination for the Canada Trophy.

Vice Admiral Gilbert Stephenson was Hon Commodore of the Sea Cadet Corps from 1949-58 and before that the founder of a WWII anti submarine training school - he was apparently a man with a fearsome reputation!



At the December Area Conference, TS Otter also received the Area award for the best unit for community interaction and will go forward as the South West's nomination for the Colditz Award, a national trophy for the unit with the best community engagement

Drill and Piping

Our Unarmed Drill Squad deservedly won top marks in the recent District Drill Competition. We are also delighted that Leading Cadet Zoe won the Best Squad Commander Award. The Squad now goes on to represent the Severn District at the forthcoming Area Drill Competition on 16th March at HMS Raleigh.

For the first time in many years, we entered four cadets, Marnie, Cerys, Ella & Nathan, for the Piping Competition. These cadets have never done piping before and are to be congratulated on coming fourth in the District.

Many thanks to the following instructors for training the Drill Team - our CO Lt Cooper, Sub Lt Howells, and for the piping Sub Lt Warren. We offer the Drill Team best wishes for the next stage in the competition.

Padre Roger Grey - Chaplain, TS Otter



2018 : 100 years since the guns fell silent



Cadets at Tewkesbury School remembering the fallen



*Our Cadets taking part in the Tewksbury Remembrance Parade. Photos by kind permission of **Jack Boskett**
www.jackboskett.co.uk*

TS Otter are always proud to take part in Tewkesbury's dignified and well-attended Remembrance Parade, particularly in 2018, when we marked 100 years since the end of World War 1.

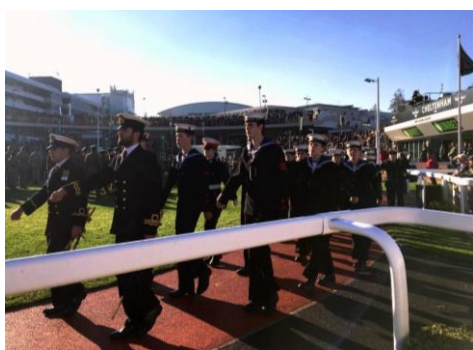
Events began on the Friday with the annual commemoration at Tewkesbury School where our cadets paraded alongside the rest of the School before laying a wreath to remember former student Matthew Stuart who fell in the Falklands War.

On Sunday 11th November 2018, our cadets joined hundreds of local residents to remember the sacrifices from conflict. Those who were able to join the packed service at Tewkesbury Abbey will long remember the moving scene as 152 of the congregation moved to the front of the Abbey carrying the name of a Tewkesbury resident lost in the Great War.

Following a march to the War Memorial, cadets from TS Otter again took the memorial guard as the names of the Town's fallen were read out to the haunting sound of the half muffled Abbey bell. It was an honour to be part of this once-in-a-lifetime commemoration.

TS Otter at Racing Remembers

After our traditional appearance at Tewkesbury's Remembrance Sunday commemorations, we were also honoured to be invited to take part in a ceremony to mark the centenary of the First World War Armistice at Cheltenham Racecourse. Thousands of horses were transported to France and other theatres of war to join the war effort, many of whom fell alongside the soldiers they supported, so it was particularly poignant that the Racecourse's November meet was dedicated to remembering the equine contribution to the War and the sacrifice made. The day began at the Racecourse station on the Gloucestershire and Warwickshire steam railway, where our cadets joined Sea, Army and Air Cadets from across the local area to await the arrival of a special train, complete with giant poppy headboard, carrying a detachment representing soldiers of the Gloucestershire Regiment in First World War uniform. Led by a band from the Royal Hussars, and under the command of former TS Otter CO, Lt Cdr Jason Kinghorn, the parade marched to the Racecourse proper where they formed up in the parade ring for an act of commemoration.



There they were joined by a detachment of Household Cavalry, wearing the uniforms of their wartime predecessors and mounted on magnificent horses more used to the streets of Westminster than the open fields of the Cotswolds. A break for refreshments and watching a re-enactment of a WW1 aerial dogfight followed, before the parade re-formed to open the day's racing with a march-past in front of the stands, watched by Princess Anne and hundreds of admiring racegoers. The icing on the cake was the chance to watch it all again on TV later as part of ITV's racing coverage.

Group Captain Clive Montellier

Carols by Candlelight

The last parade night of the year is traditionally marked by our annual Christmas Candlelight Service and, with much to celebrate in 2018, it was good to gather cadets, staff, parents and supporters of TS Otter to mark the end of a momentous year. With a full house, conducting the service by candlelight gives the unit a warm glow as the junior cadets progressively built up the nativity scene while we joined in a selection of traditional carols and readings, all led in his inimitable style by Padre Roger Grey. We were delighted to welcome our new President, Lt Col Andrew Tabor, and new Vice-President, Sarah Griffiths, but also took great pleasure in sending a collective video greeting to outgoing President, Anne Cadbury, who could not be with us – our CO clearly has a missed calling as a Eurovision presenter! We also marked the handover of the role of Executive Officer 'ExO', from Lt Ron Matthews to PO Rob Ashmeade; Ron has served with the unit in pretty much every key position for many years and has been ExO since 2003 so, in his time, has seen dozens of cadets grow and thrive through their time with us (our OC included), so this was a poignant occasion. The service over, main deck was cleared for a mouth-watering range of refreshments prepared by our Treasurer, Geraldine Liddy, and served by the Civilian Committee. One of the strengths of the Unit, recognised by the QAVS award this year, is its links with the local community, and this was certainly a chance to gather a wide selection of those who help us to do great things for our young people and share the Christmas spirit together. Our generous congregation also raised £265 for Gloucestershire Home for Veterans, our Christmas charity nominated by the Senior Cadets.

Group Captain Clive Montellier



Our Unit was packed for the annual Candlelight Service



Cadets on the upper deck join in with the singing from the main deck



Outgoing Exec Officer Ron Matthews with his decanter between our current and previous CO, Lt Cooper and Lt Cdr Kinghorn



Lt Cooper films the waving throng for our outgoing President, Anne Cadbury

Our new outside space



A quick update on our Outside Space Project...although we had hoped the new building would be constructed by early February, there has been a little delay and we are now expecting it to be built by early March. We still need to find the funding to kit it out inside, but that is something our ever resourceful Treasurer is on to!

Do also look out for the new bike shelter that should be in place any day now.

Fiercely Fought Football

Severn District's Football Competition, held last November was intensely fought with a very high standard of football played. Our Junior Section combined with Malvern to put in a valiant display but with only four players it was always going to be really tough. I did see lots of smiles and teamwork going on and their contribution certainly helped TS Otter's result in the Overall Competition, so well done Juniors!

Our Junior Boys won every game until the final when pitted against Worcester. A result had to be found in the final and at full time and still a draw the teams elected for a golden goal to decide the winner. A lucky break by Worcester followed by a blistering shot on goal beat our valiant keeper and Tewkesbury were crowned Runners Up.

Our Junior Girls combined with Malvern to put on a majestic display of how it should be done and finished on top. Congratulations to the Tewkesbury Junior Girls on winning First Place. Senior Girls again combined with Malvern and, not to be outdone by the Junior Girls, were keen to show they had skills as well. Congratulations Tewkesbury Senior Girls also winning First Place.

Overall, Tewkesbury Sea Cadets were the Runners Up in this year's Severn District Football Competition with Malvern (our close Oppos) the winners. A result that all cadets can share pride in. Bravo Zulu all of you, you did TS Otter proud.

The Area Football Competition held in January proved challenging and tough! Our determined participants came home bearing scars from their valiant if unsuccessful efforts. Well done anyhow to cadets Molly, Kara and Ella.

PO David Anderson

Fund raise whilst you shop



















Did you know that whenever you buy anything online - your weekly shop, your annual holiday or gifts for family and friends - 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! If you load the 'easyfundraising' reminder onto your PC, it will even automatically tell you whether you are shopping on one of websites signed up to donate.

There are no catches or hidden charges and Tewkesbury Sea Cadets will be incredibly grateful for your donations.

Please join now!

Just Juniors

At the beginning of December the Ordinary Cadets delivered a session to the juniors covering first aid, piping and knots this not only gave the Ordinary Cadets valuable teaching practice in readiness for their future advancement but gave the juniors an insight into the types of things they may do once they join the senior section. We were also getting ready for and taking part in the unit carol service, as well as joining the rest of the ship's company for a fun and well-deserved bowling night. The Junior District Weekend at Evesham Unit was well attended and included activities such as first aid, knot board, Christmas crafts, songs, games, problem solving activities, quiz, disco, waterways museum visit and of course ice skating.

In January, we welcomed two new juniors to the unit, Kioren and Charley, and completed a unit orientation treasure hunt. The following weeks we worked on ground rules, looked at the Sea Cadet Promise had fun exploring cleanliness and hand washing using poster paint, ready for cooking fairy cakes which the juniors took around to the seniors' classrooms.

During February the juniors designed, made and played their own sea cadet themed games. Juniors attended divisions and were involved with the Royal Naval visit by Lt Cdr (RN) David Jenkins on the new Leander class frigate Type 26. At the end of February we will be exploring how Cadets feel they can approach their instructors with concerns.

OiC, Juniors, PO Campbell-Reeves



Juniors get busy baking in the kitchen

Minibus...the good news and the bad!

For those that don't know, let's get the bad news over with - our 'new' minibus did not get through its MOT or will get through any future ones! But, in its short time with us, it showed us how invaluable it was to be able to move a lot of cadets in just one vehicle and we are determined to replace it in the future.

So, the good news is that Lt Cooper (CO) and Sub Lt Howells have both passed their D1 full minibus test. This was made possible by the extremely kind support of Hannah Lutton, one of our parents, who gave up her time to train them free of charge. A huge well done to them both - this driving qualification will mean they can drive a pretty big minibus full of even more cadets. Hope they are prepared for the greater volume of noise than they were used to!



"I've passed!" Lt Tris Cooper proudly shows his D1 certificate

Sub Lt Howells stands by the rather large minibus they took their test in



Otters go bowling



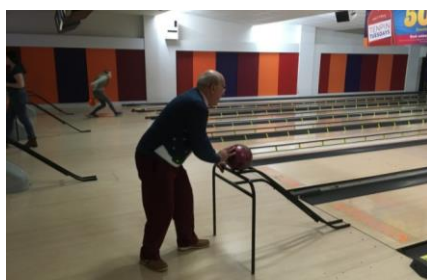
Cadets bowling & playing air hockey

A whole fleet of cars were required to transport most of our cadets, staff and UMT to Gloucester Bowl for the pre-Christmas Bowling night. Everyone enjoyed a couple of games bowling which was enhanced with a fortifying burger and chips meal in between. And there was plenty to keep cadets occupied who had whizzed through their games. A fun evening was had by all!

Poppy Collecting

As always, TS Otter joined with other cadet groups in Tewkesbury to sell Poppies to raise money for the Royal British Legion. The generous shoppers in Tewkesbury donated £1081 in total with Tewkesbury Sea Cadets collecting just over £528.75. Well done everyone!

Lt Ron Matthews tries out a bowling gadget...it didn't help!



But Padre's special bowling technique gets a strike every time!



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 for divisions:

27th March 2019

24th April 2019

29th May 2019

26th June 2019

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

email: Tewkesburyseacadets@gmail.com

Useful Contacts	Role	Contact No	email
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PO (SCC) Rob Ashmeade Reverend Roger Grey	Executive Officer TS Otter Chaplain	01684 275381	rob.ashmeade@uwclub.net grey263@btinternet.com
CPO (SCC) Stuart McGhee Jane Montellier	Stores, uniform queries etc 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

