



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

Tewkesbury Sea Cadets Newsletter - Autumn 2018

Welcome from Lt (SCC) Christine Harrison RNR

I joined Tewkesbury Unit just over a year ago. When I was a Physics teacher, I volunteered with cadets at the school because our own children had gained so much from their cadet experience. My father had served in the Royal Navy during World War II, so he was very supportive of my involvement with cadets, as were my family.

I soon realised that the Combined Cadet Force was going to change my life and open up many new opportunities. The CCF has the same core values and uniform as Sea Cadets, but meets once a week in term time. As Officer in Charge of the CCF Naval section I had about 50 cadets between the ages of 14 and 18 every week and responsibility for all the administration, training, resources, courses and special events. With only one or two adults to assist, the senior cadets had regular responsibility for teaching the younger cadets.

Being part of the CCF has given me some amazing opportunities; I have instructed on cadet courses at BRNC Dartmouth, HMS Bristol, HMS Raleigh and Weymouth SCTC. My most interesting ship visit has been to a Vanguard submarine at Faslane, Scotland. A great training day is the Fire Fighting and Damage Control at HMS Raleigh or HMS Excellent – this is part of the Naval Acquaint course. I have enjoyed many afloat days on yachts, motor cruisers and power boats, and I have gained RYA Power Boat Instructor. My proudest CCF moments have been receiving the Lord Lieutenant's Award for Meritorious Voluntary Service and seeing the Queen at a garden party in Buckingham Palace.

For several years the Unit President, Mrs Anne Cadbury, had been 'gently' persuading me to join the Tewkesbury Unit, so I was pleased to find such a welcoming and well-resourced Unit when I visited on the Unit Review evening last year. The attraction of the lovely River Avon nearby and all the well-maintained boats was a major consideration in my choice.

During the last year at the Unit I have enjoyed instructing Power Boating and taking the Leading Cadets through their promotion process from Able Cadet.

I have been impressed by the dedication of the cadets, instructors and the committee in the T S Otter family. Everyone willingly commits their time and effort to the success of the Unit, and the recent QAVS reflects this. The cadets gain confidence and learn valuable skills for life and I look forward to further involvement in the future.



Lt (SCC) Christine Harrison RNR

Forthcoming Events 2018/19

Severn District Junior Christmas Weekend (Evesham)	30 th Nov-2 nd Dec
Unit Bowling Night	17 th Dec
Unit Candle Light Carol Service (TS Otter)	19 th Dec
TS Otter Cadet Mess Dinner	Jan (TBC)
District Drill Competition	3 rd Feb
Area Drill Competition	15 th -18 th March

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

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

Promotion to Ordinary Cadet

Cadet First Class Amber
Cadet First Class James
Cadet First Class Josh

Promotion to Cadet 1st Class

Cadet Nathan
Cadet Jacob

Basic Seamanship

Cadet Xander
OC Matthew

Basic Marine Engineering

Cadet First Class James

Basic CIS

Ord Cadet Lewis

Basic Piping

Ord Cadet Lewis

Asst Rowing Instructor

Leading Cadet Zoe

Basic Sailing

Cadet Jack
Cadet Xander



Some of the recent proud recipients of promotion and awards

Junior Cadets Promotions

Promotion to Leading Junior Cadet

Junior Cadet 1st Class Tegan

With our most grateful thanks...



The support given to Tewkesbury Sea Cadets by our President and two Vice-Presidents is deeply valued. Sadly, one of our Vice-Presidents has had to resign on the grounds of ill health. Mr Ted Keeper's link with TS Otter goes back a long way. Having served in the Royal Navy he was asked to join the then Unit Management Committee where his experience and wisdom were much appreciated. As a member of the Tewkesbury Branch of the Royal Navy Association he was also a valued link with that organisation As a Vice President of the Sea Cadets, he provided practical support in many ways and he was ever ready with warm words of encouragement. We thank Ted and his wife, Margaret, for all they have done for us and we hope, health permitting, to see them at Unit events in the future.

It is with great pleasure that we welcome as one of the Unit's Vice-Presidents, Mrs Sarah Griffiths. She needs no introduction to TS Otter, having served until recently as an active and supportive Chair of the Unit Management Team. With three children as former cadets and service in the past as Secretary and then Treasurer of the Unit, Sarah brings to her new role a great deal of experience and wisdom. We warmly welcome her aboard. And, fortunately for us, we continue to have the active support of our other Vice-President, Col Mike Bennett, OBE, DL.

In the next Newsletter, we shall pay tribute to Mrs Anne Cadbury OBE, DL, JP, who retires as our distinguished President at the end of the year and introduce Lt Col Andrew Tabor JP, a former High Sheriff of Gloucestershire, as her successor.

TS Otter's Royal Recognition

We've been basking in the glow of our Queen's Award for Voluntary Service ever since it was announced in the Summer, so the prospect of actually receiving it at a ceremony in the Unit was very exciting. We knew that it would be presented by the Lord Lieutenant of Gloucestershire, Dame Janet Trotter CVO, a long-time friend of TS Otter, but we were delighted when our invitation list for the event brought us not only a packed hall of our regular friends and supporters but also those very special people who had prepared and sponsored our nomination on its way through the process. They included our own Padre, Canon Roger Grey, current and former Town Mayors, Chris Danter and Claire Wright, Air Marshall Sir Dusty Miller and John Thurston, Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Glos. With a beaming CO acting as Master of Ceremonies, Dame Janet outlined the background to the Award, instigated to mark HM The Queen's Golden Jubilee in 2002. We already knew that we were only the third Sea Cadet unit to receive an Award, but we were delighted to learn that, of the 22 awards made in this round in the South West region of the country, no fewer than 11 had been awarded in Gloucestershire – clearly volunteering runs deep in the County. We were also immensely proud that the citation for the Award reflected so much that we hold dear at TS Otter, particularly the place of the Unit in the life of Tewkesbury Town, with the support that we give to local events reciprocated in the generosity of local residents, businesses and institutions in helping us to give our cadets a unique experience. We are very grateful to Claire Wright and Sir Dusty Miller for writing letters in support of our nomination and helping this happen. The ceremony also gave us a chance to pay proper tribute to our former Unit Management Team Chair, Mrs Sarah Griffiths, whose efforts over many years were instrumental in earning us the Award – and she thought she could slip away quietly! Formalities over, there was time to enjoy each other's company while we tucked in to one of Treasurer Geraldine Liddy's delicious buffets, while our cadets treated our visitors to a series of displays demonstrating the kind of training we offer. A lovely evening, with so much to celebrate for all. Now all we have to do is live up to it and do even more!

Group Captain Clive Montellier, Parent

Our CO and Chairman receive the QAVS from Dame Janet Trotter



Lt Matthews 'shows the ropes' to Dame Janet in one of our newly refurbished classrooms



Debbie Bailey, Admin Officer, Alison McCoubrie, parent, Sarah Griffiths, former Chairman & Eve Buchanan, Chairman



Goodbye to Fred

In August, we sadly had to say our goodbyes to Able Cadet Fred on his reaching the age of 18. He has now embarked on his university career and, in recognition of all he has contributed to the unit, he received an inscribed tankard from the Commanding Officer, Lt (SCC) Tristan Cooper. We will also miss the huge contribution made by Mr and Mrs Leggett to the wellbeing of the unit and wish them well for the future.

Padre Roger Grey, Chaplain TS Otter

Tewkesbury reaches National Rowing Finals in London - in spite of the minibus!!

Some very weary cadets finally made it to the Excel Centre in London in August for the Sea Cadet National Rowing Finals the next day. Piccadilly Circus is central London on a Friday night is a challenging place for a minibus to break down! This happened to the Malvern bus in which four of our cadets were travelling. Thanks to the cool heads shown by the staff on board and the cadets 'taking this all in their stride', the staff were able to focus on getting the minibus towed away after a long delay and get the passengers to their destination.



Cadets Nathaniel, Kara, Ellie and Molly

Seemingly none the worse for their previous night's adventure, two of our four cadets, Molly and Nathaniel, went on to win silver medals in the kayaking final - a splendid achievement. Cadets Ellie and Kara also distinguished themselves in the double marathon and double sprint kayak race. Just to reach the National Rowing Finals is a great accomplishment in itself. To go on and win medals as well - now that's a sign of true dedication. Our four cadets carried the torch high for Tewkesbury Sea Cadets, the Severn District and the South West Area. Welcome support was on hand from our Unit Treasurer, Geraldine Liddy, Cadet Marnie and our Boats Officer, Chief Petty Officer (SSC) Paul Mercer, brought everyone home safely at the end of the day in our own minibus.

Padre Roger Grey, Chaplain TS Otter

Awards Ceremony - TS Otter High on the Agenda

Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for Gloucestershire, Dame Janet Trotter DBE, CVO held her annual Awards Ceremony on the 7th October and Tewkesbury Sea Cadets was high on her agenda.

Receiving the Lord Lieutenant's Certificate for Meritorious Service, an award only one step below national honours, was our Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Tristan Cooper and our Boats Officer, Chief Petty Officer Paul Mercer. Tristan has given exceptional service to TS Otter as CO and we are delighted at this well deserved recognition. Paul has worked tirelessly in the demanding role of the Unit's Boats Officer, to the great benefit of our cadets and the Severn District. It was no less pleasing to see the same Award given to a former CO of Tewkesbury Sea Cadets, Lt Cdr Jason Kinghorn. This was in recognition of his service to the wider family of the Sea Cadets in the South West Area and Nationally.

The Investiture of Lord Lieutenant's Cadets for the coming year was also held at the same ceremony. Of the ten invested, two are from Tewkesbury Sea Cadets. It was with great pride that we watched as Leading Cadet Scott and Leading Cadet Ryan were given their certificates of appointment by the Lord Lieutenant.

In her closing speech, Dame Janet referred to Tewkesbury Sea Cadets receiving the prestigious recognition this year of the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service and praised all who served in the cadet forces as adult volunteers.



Proud representatives of TS Otter pose with Dame Janet Trotter and our President, Anne Cadbury

New Lord Lieutenant Cadets from Sea, Air & Army at a briefing with Dame Janet Trotter



Padre Roger Grey, Chaplain TS Otter

Cadet Jacob - best in the South West!



Jacob, our son won a place representing the South West Area in the Topper class at the National Sailing Regatta in Southport at the end of September 2018. He's 12 and has been a sailor for 4 years now. He has his own boat which he proudly cares for and races at every opportunity at Avon Sailing Club.

Perfect sailing weather – dry and windy, we pitched our seats at the water's edge. Binoculars in one hand and coffee in the other we watched with nervous anticipation. We chatted about how big the lake was and how very different to what he was used to on the river – if he could finish mid field that would be an amazing achievement for his first visit to the nationals.

Lunch break saw the sailors return to base to stock up on sugar and all things nice – Jacob was in good spirits and pleased with the racing so far, and so he should be. He had a great 2 races with a 2nd and 3rd place.

The final race of the day would be the decider. The wind was definitely picking up and some of the competitors were finding the gusts hard work, but, for Jacob, one of his favourite sailing conditions. All his hours of practicing on the River Severn were proving useful now. The pack were away and Jacob got a great start, as the leading pack headed for the first marker and disappeared behind the first island we watched ready with binoculars in hand to see which sailor would emerge from behind the island first. It was Jacob – he was sitting in first place. Excitedly we watched him disappear behind the second island with the rest of the pack just behind him. He emerged with a fantastic lead and sailed brilliantly to secure a 1st place win in the last race.

We're still beaming with pride from his achievements, a very proud day for us. A 2nd place individual win and a 3rd place for his team mate resulting in a overall win of the Topper Trophy for Team South West.

Hannah and Darren

Hannah and Darren get the best seats for the competition



The heat of the race (below) and Cadet Jacob (right) with Lt (SCC) Tris Cooper and the Topper Trophy



A swimming success!

On 29th September, keen swimmers from Units in the Severn District descended on the Tewkesbury Swimming Pool for the District Swimming Competition. This was the first time the town's new pool was used by the District and the staff coped with the invasion very well.

The competition between the Units was keen, not more than our own Tewkesbury Unit. TS Otter won five races and was runner up in a further five, coming away with the award for overall Runner Up - a brilliant effort. Thanks are due to our Deputy District Officer, Lt (SCC) Adrian Gittings, for organising and presiding over the event.

Padre Roger Grey - Chaplain, TS Otter

Worth The Wait for Trafalgar Night 2018

After taking a break from our formal Trafalgar Night dinner last year, we returned to the Gupshill Manor on Saturday 13 October for a smaller but still very traditional affair. Forty two Unit staff, committee, parents and supporters were in attendance and we were delighted to welcome Dame Janet Trotter CVO DBE as our Guest of Honour as the outgoing Lord Lieutenant of Gloucestershire. We are very fortunate that the Gupshill team are keen to help us make our Trafalgar night the equal of similar occasions held in Royal Navy wardrooms across the world at this time of year, not just in the formality of the setting, and quality of the food, but also in allowing our cadets to take the lead in stewarding duties, giving the whole event an authentic atmosphere. Vignettes from the cadets and staff, telling the story of that fateful day in October 1805, reminded us what we were there to commemorate. There was a range of attractive raffle prizes on offer from a wide range of local business, allowing us to raise a healthy £500 towards our current outside space project. The dinner also provided us with the opportunity to thank a number of stalwart TS Otter supporters for their sustained contribution to our success. That included Dame Janet herself who, throughout her time in post has done a huge amount to encourage youth groups such as ours, culminating in our receipt of The Queen’s Award for Voluntary Service this year; we also dined out the Unit’s long-serving Executive Officer, Lt Ron Matthews, who will step down later this year after many years of service to the Corps, and former Chair of the Unit Management Team, Mrs Sarah Griffiths, who we were delighted to announce had accepted an invitation to become one of our Vice-Presidents. A particular tribute was paid to Mrs Ann Cadbury who will step down as our President after more years than any of those present could remember and whose enthusiasm for our work has been a constant source of encouragement to staff and cadets alike. The dedication of all those being honoured was reflected in Dame Janet’s moving speech in which she highlighted that Admiral Nelson’s determination to do his duty, although expressed in the context of joining battle, represented a theme that underpinned everything for which the Sea Cadet Corps stands. Huge thanks must go to our Vice Chairman, Andy Emmett, in securing a significant donation from his workplace to contribute towards the evening.

Group Captain Clive Montellier



The cadets working hard serving the Trafalgar Night diners



Mess President, Lt (SCC) Ron Matthews with Dame Janet Trotter, our Guest of Honour

Welcome to our new Vice Chairman



We would like to warmly welcome our new UMT member and Vice Chairman, Andy Emmett to TS Otter. Andy has been a resident of Tewkesbury for 10 years, he is married and has 2 children in local schools. Andy works for CDS Support Ltd in Cheltenham where he is a Business Development Lead for a Support Engineering Company but hails from a military past having served 22 years in the Royal Corps of Signals, so has a wealth of military and commercial management to bring to the team.

Andy is a keen supporter of local groups and is a Park Run core team member and can often be found either directing or marshalling at the Tewkesbury Parkrun every Saturday in the vineyards.

Our fantastic new Outdoor Space

After an awful lot of fund raising we are thrilled that our Outdoor Space project is now well and truly underway. The project started with a clean up session in September and the following week, work began on demolishing and removing the old garage, taking up of the old flooring and laying of the new tarmac. An outside platform for 'Colours' ceremonies has been put in place as well as an area to keep the bins tucked away. Next stage will be to install the new bike shed and start construction of the new marine engineering building, which is due to start in January 2019. Our very grateful thanks go to David Southwood, Chair of Trinity House South West Charities Committee for their generous £3,000 donation that has allowed us to get started on this last phase of the project. We have lots of plans as to how to use our new facility and the wonderfully flat and even surface will, of course, make a great place to start all that drill practice in 2019!



Here's the garage, emptied and ready for demolition!

The new surface showing the footprint for the new marine engineering building



Serious fun at South West Area Summer Camp 2018!

Hundreds of Sea Cadets from Units throughout the South West Area descended on HMS Raleigh at Torpoint for the 2018 Summer Camp. Here, two of several TS Otter's cadets to attend, tell Padre what they enjoyed most in an action packed and fun week. For Ordinary Cadet Kara, it was the opportunity to meet new people and make new friends. In any organisation, relationships are all important and the friendliness to be found in the Sea Cadets is one of its many strengths. It was certainly impressive how quickly a large gathering of comparative strangers became united in a common endeavour to look out for each other and encourage each other. Ordinary Cadet Marnie identified the range of activities available throughout the week as the highlight for her. Among these were rock climbing, a visit to a theme park and raft building. Boating was also mentioned, especially seeing one of the rowing boats get stuck on a mud bank and having to be rescued! Navy food was not mentioned as one of the highlights - but then you can't beat home cooking!

No Summer Camp can function without a well led and dedicated team of staff, and for this we must thank the Area Training Officer, Lt Cdr (SCC) Marc Styles RNR and Deputy Training Office Lt (SCC) Alison Ward RNR. The Padre also received a parting gift (which he treasures!) to mark the last of his Area Summer Camps in the guise of one of the two Welfare Officers.



Cadet Marnie liked the wall climbing!



Padre Roger Grey, Chaplain TS Otter

Cadet Kara out and about with new friends

Sea Cadets honour the memory of Nelson & Trafalgar



All ten Sea Cadet Units of the Severn District were well represented at the District Trafalgar Day Parade held this year at Malvern and hosted by the Malvern Unit (Lt (SCC) Pam Holloway RNR). At an impressive march-past in the town, the salute was taken by a Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Worcestershire, Mr Andrew Grant. Among other guests present was Surgeon Commodore Buxton RN (Retired).

Tewkesbury Sea Cadets looked splendid in their No 1 Uniforms and our CO, Lt Tristan Cooper, together with Sub Lt Charlotte Warren, played key roles in the Colour Party that paraded the District Colour. Earlier in the day, the Severn District attended a Trafalgar Day Service in Malvern Priory Church, led by the Chaplain of the Malvern Unit, assisted by the Padre as District Chaplain. All returned at the conclusion to the Malvern Unit where excellent refreshments were provided to hungry cadets, staff and supporters. This impressive annual District Trafalgar Day Parade helps to keep alive the memory of our greatest Naval heroes and the sea battle he won that kept our island safe from invasion and secured peace in Europe.

Padre Roger Grey - Chaplain, TS Otter

Fund raise whilst you shop



amazon.co.uk

John Lewis

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TESCO

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Argos

With Christmas coming just around the corner, 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

August and September we were on the water with the end of September seeing us start the winter programme starting with looking at codes and cyphers as well as our Queen's Award for Voluntary Services Presentation. The Juniors also joined in with the rest of the ship's company at the Morrison's bag pack and flag day collections.

October we were exploring how to make our own circuits with buzzers to use when practising Morse code, the juniors collaboratively made a map of Tewkesbury for their community module. We attempted to make Slime which didn't quite go to plan so used the resulting gloop in sea based pictures. Finally finishing the month with designing, making and playing their own games, which were enjoyed by Padre and some senior cadet volunteers too. We said goodbye to Beth as she joined the New Entry group in preparation to being enrolled as a senior cadet.

In November we looked at compasses and did a unit orientation evening with new Junior Cadet Jack finishing off the evening with games on the main deck. Also during November, we said goodbye to Ben and Nyah as they join the New Entry group.

Thank you to Lt Harrison, CI Harrison and Chief Stamp for supporting the juniors when I wasn't available.

OiC, Juniors, PO Campbell-Reeves



Our slime didn't work out as expected so we made stress buddies as well as seascape pictures with the resulting gloop!



Fantastic Fundraising

We had a superb September for fund raising! First, our Flag Day raised over £640 from the very generous shoppers one sunny Saturday in Tewkesbury. Two weeks later, we held a Bag Pack at Morrison's and raised £917.05 with a further £229 claimable in gift aid at the end of the year. Our gratitude also goes to Lt Howells for arranging a £1,000 match funding from Lloyds Bank on top of this.

TS Otter Cadets received many lovely comments about how polite they were at the Bag Pack and what a good job they did with one shopper handing a tin of chocolates to Cadet Ellie to share with her fellow cadets. Well done, all - we're very proud of you!

STOP PRESS

We have just heard the fantastic news that that Tewkesbury Sea Cadets came third in the 'Cash for Communities' competition and have been awarded £2000. Thank you very much to everyone who helped make this happen by bringing in tokens from local newspapers.

Thank you



An invitation to our Candlelight Carol Service

At the end of another busy year, our traditional Candlelight Carol Service will take place at the Unit on **Wednesday 19th December** at **19.15 hrs**. Once again, we welcome members of the Tewkesbury Town Band, who will provide the music. 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.

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 17th December 2018** (also bowling night!) and we reopen on **Monday 7th January 2019**.

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:

28th November 2018

30th January 2019

27th February 2019

27th March 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
PO (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

