



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

Tewkesbury Sea Cadets Newsletter - Summer 2018

Welcome from Lt (SCC) Tristan Cooper RNR

The Summer has arrived at last, and Tewkesbury Sea Cadets have been making full use of the excellent weather to deliver an increasingly diverse cadet experience. We have continued to build on our exceptional competition success, winning the District Combined Regatta, and also seeing a number of our cadets winning the Area Combined Regatta. We have thoroughly enjoyed hosting lots of District Competitions and would not be able to do this without the sterling job of our boats officer CPO Mercer and the staff team, alongside the continued support of Tewkesbury Cruising and Sailing Club (with special thanks to Mrs Bailey for continuing to foster this beneficial relationship).

There have been a number of firsts for the unit in recent months. Alone, these commendations would be special for any cadet unit, but together they really do pay testament to the exceptional work that so many of our volunteers do. I really do mean it when I say the 'norm' at Tewkesbury Sea Cadets is well above the 'norm' at most other units.

The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service is the highest national award that is bestowed by Her Majesty the Queen to volunteer groups across the UK and recognises outstanding work done in their respective communities. Since 2002, a few hundred of these awards have been given out. I am incredibly proud to be able to announce that Tewkesbury Sea Cadets have been the recipient of the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service as announced in the London Gazette in June, and this makes us one of three cadet units in the history of the award to receive this commendation. So to say this is a first, really is underestimating the gravity of this accolade! A special thanks to our illustrious Padre for coordinating the award submission and a further special thanks to Cllr Clare Wright who acted as one of the main sponsors. We will be honoured to welcome the Lord Lieutenant of Gloucestershire, Dame Janet Trotter DBE CVO in September to make the presentation and formal invites are in the process of being delivered to make this evening a highly public celebration.

We have also recently been informed that two of our staff have been awarded the Lord-Lieutenant's Certificate of Meritorious Service. This award supplements the National Honours System, and is awarded for service 'above and beyond the normal call of duty'. CPO Paul Mercer, the unit's Boats Officer, has deservedly been awarded this and is a testament to the continued hard work he does not only for our unit,



*Lt (SCC) Tristan Cooper
RNR*

but for Sea Cadet units across the Corps.

CPO Mercer genuinely puts in enough hours volunteering at Sea Cadets to constitute a full time job! We are extremely grateful for the expertise and commitment he brings to Tewkesbury Sea Cadets. I am also pleased to say I have been awarded the second – and this is even more pleasing because no unit has ever been awarded two of these commendations at the same time before.

Forthcoming Events 2018

Area Paddlesport Competition (Barry)	11 th Aug
National Combined Regatta (London)	1 st Sept
Presentation of the QAVS (TS Otter)	12 th Sept
Tewkesbury Sea Cadets Flag Day	15 th Sept
District Swimming Competition	15 th Sept
District Seamanship & ME Competition	16 th Sept
Morrison's Bag Pack (Tewkesbury)	22 nd Sept
Nat Sail & Windsurf Regatta (Southport)	28 th -30 th Sept
Trafalgar Night Mess Dinner (Tewkesbury)	13 th Oct
District Trafalgar Day Parade (Malvern)	21 st Oct
Pickle Night	TBC
Remembrance Sunday (Tewkesbury)	11 th Nov
Unit Candle Light Carol Service (TS Otter)	19 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 Promotions & Awards

Congratulations to our cadets

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

Promotion to Leading Cadet

Able Cadet Fred
Able Cadet Ryan
Able Cadet Scott
Able Cadet Zoe

Promotion to Ordinary Cadet

Cadet First Class Kara
Cadet First Class Lewis
Cadet First Class Marnie
Cadet First Class Molly

Promotion to Cadet 1st Class

Cadet Ellie

Basic Stewarding

Able Cadet Zoe

Sailing Stage 3

Cadet Jacob

Two Star Kayak

Able Cadet Scott

Basic Seamanship

Cadet Jacob

Supervised Coxswain

Cadet First Class Molly

Go Row 1 & 2

Able Cadet Fred

Promotion to Jnr Cadet 1st Class

Junior Cadet Tegan
Junior Cadet Bethany

Module Badges

Green - Junior Cadet Tegan
Blue - Junior Cadets Tegan, Logan and Bethany

New Entries



Congratulations to Junior Cadets Cerys, Xander and Thomas on their enrolment to Senior Cadet Level...



...and congratulations to Cadets Toya and Joe on their enrolment to Senior Cadet Level.

We Have Every Reason to be Proud and to be Inspired to do Even Greater Things!! The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service

Tewkesbury Sea Cadet Unit is to receive the highest award given to volunteer groups across the United Kingdom. The unique and prestigious Queen's Award for Voluntary Service was created by Her Majesty the Queen to mark her Golden Jubilee in 2002, and to recognise outstanding contributions made to local communities by groups of volunteers.

"Everyone who has received this award should be incredibly proud", said the Minister for Civil Society, "their service commitment and care has a profoundly positive impact on communities throughout the country". The Chairman of the Award Independent Committee said, "The recipients of the Queen's Award are at the very top of a formidable volunteering movement in the UK". In a letter to our Commanding Officer, Air Marshal Sir Dusty Miller KBE, Warden of the Honourable Company of Gloucestershire wrote, "I am overjoyed that the extraordinary efforts of your team have been recognised and publicly rewarded in this way. Please pass on my most sincere congratulations and appreciation to all who make the Tewkesbury Sea Cadets the most stunning example of just how good young people can be".



The Queen's Award
for Voluntary Service

The author of a report on the Unit to the Award authorities, and a Deputy Lieutenant of the County, Mr John Thurston likewise wrote, "...so impressed by the organisation and enthusiasm of your Unit...your achievements are amazing".

The formal presentation of The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service will be made by the Lord Lieutenant of Gloucestershire, Dame Janet Trotter DBE CVO at the Unit on Wednesday 12 September in the evening. Please put this date in your diary.

Padre Roger Grey, Chaplain, TS Otter

The waters sparkled at the District Regatta

The sun shone and the waters of the River Avon sparkled for the Severn District Combined Regatta over the weekend of 8th to 10th June. The Tewkesbury Cruising and Sailing Club kindly gave permission to use their facilities and Tewkesbury Sea Cadets were the hosts.

Particular thanks to go our Boats Officer, CPO Mercer, who worked tirelessly to ensure that the arrangements worked smoothly. Mrs Sharon Mercer saw to the catering over the weekend, helped by a wonderful band of UMT members and parents from the Tewkesbury Unit. Staff from the Unit and from other Units in the Severn District saw to the safety of the cadets and running of the races.

As always, the stars of the Regatta were the cadets themselves who were determined to give of their best. Tewkesbury Sea Cadets were the overall winners and the following Tewkesbury cadets also distinguished themselves:

- 1st place - Open Boys Rowing: team are off to the Area Competition
- 1st place - Sail Boat Handling: team are off to the Area Competition
- 1st place - Junior Mixed Double Yole: Cadets Molly & Nathaniel are off to the Area Competition
- 1st place - Junior Kayak Double Sprint: Cadets Ellie & Kara are off to the Area Competition in August
- 1st place - Double Marathon Kayak: Cadets Kara & Ellie are off to the Area Competition in August
- 1st place - Junior Kayak Single Sprint: Cadet Ellie is off to the Area Competition in August
- 1st place - Kayak Slalom (Cadet Scott)
- Runners up - Powerboat Handling
- 3rd place - Junior Rowing



Cadets Molly and Nathaniel showing great effort in the Junior Mixed Double Yole



Parents and UMT members worked hard over the weekend to keep competitors and supporters fed and watered



Cadet Ellie starts to pull away in the kayak sprint



Padre takes a rest close to the tea and coffee supply

And, drum roll for the Area Rowing results

We did fantastically at the Area Regatta in July, coming 3rd in the Open Boys, 3rd in the Open Female Yole and 1st in the Junior Mixed Double Yole. We're thrilled to report that Cadets Molly and Nathaniel are now off to the Nationals in September!

Promotion for our Commanding Officer

During the District Regatta, many of us heard the fantastic news that our Commanding Officer, Tristan Cooper, has now been promoted to Lieutenant (SCC). We are very proud of his achievements and thrilled that this is now reflected in his new rank. Well done Lt Cooper!

Recognition for outstanding service



Lt Cdr Kinghorn (centre) congratulates Lt Cooper and CPO Mercer after announcing their awards to the unit

As reported in our lead article, we are pleased to announce that our Commanding Officer, Lt(SCC) Tristan Cooper RNR, and our Boats Officer, CPO(SCC) Paul Mercer, are to receive the Lord Lieutenant of Gloucestershire's Certificate for Meritorious Service. This prestigious award is in recognition of their outstanding service within the Sea Cadet Corps and the Tewkesbury Unit. We are proud to be led by such an exceptional Commanding Officer, and no less proud of the devotion to duty over many years shown by CPO Mercer. Both are to receive their awards in the autumn from the Lord Lieutenant of Gloucestershire, Dame Janet Trotter DBE CVO.

Padre Roger Grey, Chaplain, TS Otter

And it doesn't end there!

We are also very proud to announce that one of the unit's previous Commanding Officers, Lt Cdr (SCC) Jason Kinghorn DMS, has been elected as Chairman of the National Sea Cadet Advisory Council. NSCAC is made up of the CEO of the MSSC, the Captain of the Corps, the Director of Operations, the Corps Chaplain, HQSOs, and uniformed representatives from every area in the country. This Council really does act as the voice of the 'volunteer' in sea cadets, and its role is to feedback and reflect on the opinions of the SCC volunteers to Headquarters and discuss proposed changes. We offer Lt Cdr Kinghorn our heartfelt congratulations on his appointment, and wish him the best of luck in the years ahead dealing with some tricky planned changes.

Welcome to our new Chairman

Earlier this year, we were delighted to welcome our new Chairman, Eve Buchanan. Eve has been a resident of Tewkesbury for 20 plus years and her son has been in the cadets for the past 7 years. She is currently a Teaching Assistant at a local primary school and was also been a Special Constable in Tewkesbury for 12 years, a role that she really enjoyed as, she says, no two nights were the same.

Eve has also played in the position of Second Row for Tewkesbury Ladies Rugby Team and now coaches C of E School. She loved playing rugby and said it was "awesome"!

Eve is passionate about the Unit and is very keen that we come up with new initiatives to retain our older cadets. We are thrilled that she has been appointed to this key role in TS Otter.



Report on the 2018 AGM

TS Otter's Annual General Meeting (AGM) took place on Thursday 21st June. It was an opportunity for parents and supporters to hear annual reports from our Chair, Eve Buchanan, Commanding Officer, Lt (SCC) Tris Cooper and our Treasurer, Geraldine Liddy on everything that had happened in the previous year. Our Unit Management Team was also re-elected and a new committee member, Andy Emmett, voted in.

We also learnt from our President, Mrs Anne Cadbury, that she sadly intends to step down from her role in the New Year of 2019 after serving in her role for many years. She recommended that Col Andrew Tabor, High Sheriff of Gloucestershire in 2017/18, be selected to succeed her - this recommendation was endorsed by the Unit Management Team following the AGM. We will be sorry to lose such a dedicated supporter but Col Tabor will be a very worthy successor. Look out for more in a future Newsletter

Our grateful thanks

In May, Tewkesbury Sea Cadets were fortunate to be visited by Sir Henry Elwes to present us with a cheque for £2,000 on behalf of the Honourable Company of Gloucestershire. This money will specifically go towards our Outside Space project.



Whilst at the unit, Sir Henry was shown round by our Commanding Officer and had a tea and a catch up with his old friend, Padre Roger Grey.

Our very grateful thanks to Sir Henry and the Honourable Company of Gloucestershire for their generous donation.

A big 'thank you' for our grants

Since the last newsletter, we have seen an amazing amount granted and donated to Tewkesbury Sea Cadets. We are very grateful to the following organisations and individuals for their generosity:

- £10,000 from the **Gosling Foundation** for the Outside Space Project
- £2,000 from **Renishaw** for the Outside Space Project
- A generous grant from the **Princes Charitable Trust** for the Outside Space Project
- £5,000 from the **Summerfield Trust** for the Outside Space Project
- £10,000 from the **South West Area Sea Cadet Premises Fund** for the Outside Space Project
- £3,500 from the **Bernard Sunley Foundation** for the Outside Space Project
- £2,000 from the **Midcounties Co-op** for repainting and providing new carpets in the classrooms
- A generous grant from the **George Cadbury Trust** for the Outside Space Project
- £500 from **Mr Rawlinson**, who was a Tewkesbury Sea Cadet in the 40's! He made this very generous donation to our Outside Space Project
- £200 donation from the **Tewkesbury Big Weekend**
- £500 for helping at **Tewkesbury half marathon**
- £250 for the **Staverton Airport** disaster practise
- £350 for helping at the **Medieval Festival**



Outside Space Project Update

With the fantastic amount that has recently been donated towards our Outside Space Project, we are now in a position to start working on the first phase of this scheme - this includes taking down the rather dilapidated garage and laying a new surface across the ground space. We will keep you posted on start dates & progress.

A Rededication on Armed Forces Day



On Sunday 1st July, Tewkesbury Sea Cadets supported a special Armed Forces Day Parade, marching through Tewkesbury High Street, then gathering at The Memorial Cross for a rededication marking the addition of new names of those from Tewkesbury who lost their lives in action. A short service was conducted by our Chaplain, Canon Roger Grey and, at 11.00 am, all fell silent for a two minute silence. This was followed by a march past the Town Hall with our Vice President, Col Mike Bennett, on the dais.

On the Avon - District Sailing Regatta 2018

It was a perfect day for the District's Annual Sailing Regatta and, as it was the first time the unit has hosted this event, we were delighted that the sun was shining and the wind was blowing! Not only did our cadets count for over 80% of the overall competitors on the day, but we also walked away with a fantastic set of results, as follows:

Open Quest Class Winners - Cadets Matthew & James I
Junior Topper Winner - Cadet Jacob

Open Quest Class Runners up - Cadets Lewis & Josh
Overall Regatta Winners - Tewkesbury Unit

A massive well done to all of the competitors and also to the massive group of staff who helped set up, run and tidy away on the competition day. Plus a special mention to Tewkesbury Sailing Club for allowing us to host this event at their club.



Cadets Josh, Lewis, James I and Matthew out on the water. And Cadet Jacob receiving his 1st Place trophy

Special thanks to mum, Hannah Lutton, for her permission to use her wonderful photos.



Cadets caught up in airport emergency!

One lovely evening in April, TS Otter Cadets, parents, staff and trustees offered their acting skills at Gloucester Airport's annual Casualty Exercise. The scenario was that a group of cadets and staff were on their way back from a weekend in the Channel Islands when their plane had a mishap and came off the runway. Cadets and staff were all given a role card to act out with some of the casualties on the plane and some of us were strewn out on the runway. Then the emergency crews swung into action with several fire engines arriving to deal with the scene, put out a nearby fire and assess the injuries before the paramedics arrived. CO's uniform led to him being approached many times by different emergency crew asking "are you the pilot?" which kept some of us amused for much of the evening!

The standard of acting from TS Otter ranged from shy to Oscar winning. Padre kept all of the emergency crew on their toes with his 'confusion' and constantly trying to escape the scene whilst PO Campbell Reeves was in role as the distressed Unit Leader right up until the very end! CO was very jealous when he heard that one 'seriously injured' cadet was to be airlifted by helicopter back to base, but, being an exercise, this was an imaginary helicopter and, in reality, a people carrier. All the casualties were taken back to the main airport for interviews to record who we were, what our recollections of the accident were and what 'injuries' we had. The evening ended with squash, biscuits and crisps and a feedback session for the police who ran the exercise.

Thank you to Gloucester Airport for asking us again to take part in a fun evening and making a very generous donation to our Outside Space funds.



Some of the 'cast' holding their role cards



The CO and the Chairman survey the damage



Help! Our cadets are in there...

...actually, they look like they're having a good time!



Mum, Hannah Lutton is treated for a nasty injury



As the Chairman and PO Campbell-Reeves turn on the acting skills, the fireman has to look away



Just Juniors

May was the start of preparing to go on the water, the juniors completed gathering data from the weather gauges they had made earlier and finished building and testing their boats. We did a water safety recap session and had a go at trying on and fitting buoyancy aids.

From the middle of May until the present, the juniors have been on the water predominantly rowing and working towards their competent crew qualification.

In July the juniors joined with the rest of the unit and attended the Armed Forces Day parade. Some also went to Hereford unit and took part in the District Junior Boating weekend. Needless to say they got wet. When asked what the highlight of the weekend had been the unanimous answer was jumping in the river at the end of each day!

OiC, Juniors, PO Campbell-Reeves



At last...we have wheels!

We're really excited that we now have our own minibus! We have managed to get a lot of use out of it already, not only in taking cadets down to the Sailing Club each Monday and Wednesday but also taking cadets to the Weymouth Boating Weekend and the Area Rowing Competition. Our own minibus is something we have wanted for a long time and, it is fair to say, CO and Padre are very, very happy about it!

Our gratitude to CF Roberts for making the bus available to us and to the Tewkesbury Masons for their help in providing a parking space for our lovely vehicle.



Other things we've been up to...



Tewkesbury Sea Cadets have quite a local reputation for reliable car parking. In July, we managed the Vineyards Car Parking for the Medieval Festival. Despite clashing with the final matches in the Football World Cup, the Vineyards was incredibly busy - we parked more than 1,100 cars in all!

It was another hot weekend, but the cadets worked incredibly hard. A huge thank you to them, the parents and staff for supporting this regular fund raiser for the unit and helping guarantee we will be asked to do it again.

In May, Tewkesbury Sea Cadets, once again, showed their great organising skills in supporting the Tewkesbury Half Marathon by looking after runners' bags and handing out medals at the end of the race. Another great fund raiser for us and thank you to all the cadets, parents and staff who were out early on a Sunday to lend their support.



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. **Please note that summer time Divisions are subject to alteration to maximise boating opportunities.**

Forthcoming dates for divisions:

29th August 2018

26th September 2018

31st October 2018

28th November 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 Eve Buchanan	Commanding Officer Chairman – Unit Management Team	07956 459387	tristancooper@live.co.uk umc.tsotter@gmail.com
PO (SCC) Rob Ashmeade Reverend Roger Grey	Training 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

