



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

Tewkesbury Sea Cadets Newsletter - Spring 2019

Welcome from Executive Officer PO Rob Ashmeade

Firstly, for those who've not seen this before, thank you for taking an interest in the Tewkesbury Sea Cadets and the many and varied activities we've been involved with in 2018 and our forthcoming plans for the rest of 2019.

What a busy few months since I became the Unit Executive Officer after Lt Ron Matthews decided to call it a day, after decades of service to the unit. He's not gone, merely giving the rest of us a chance to emulate his service.

What a time the unit is having! Second at Nationals for Unarmed Drill after winning the SW Area and Severn District competition. A hugely significant moment in the unit's history. All credit to those cadets and staff who gave up so much time and effort to achieve it - they are a credit to the Sea Cadets. And not to forget the Queen's Award to Voluntary Services and our subsequent elevation to be the best unit in the South West Area!

We've just celebrated Pickle Night (a little late!) which the Cadets helped plan and carry out. Thanks again to our Treasurer Geraldine for a superb meal and the staff and associated helpers. We just need to plan the next one on time this year!

Our open space and ME classroom are almost finished, which is a staggering result given the cost and complexity of the project...what next? Watch this space!!

Whilst all this was going on, our cadets, staff and UMC have all been busy attending training courses across the South West Area. Barely a weekend goes by without one of us taking part or being involved in a Sea Cadet activity.

We've got the District Combined Regatta coming up in early June, our AGM on 20th June as well as now trying to get on the water after a successful Unit Review.

Finally, big thanks to all those supporters of Tewkesbury Sea Cadets for their continued support, be they cadets, staff, UMC, parents or the local community and charitable organisations. Without them we wouldn't be able to offer to our cadets, the life changing experiences that we do.



PO Rob Ashmeade

Forthcoming Events in 2019

District Regatta	8 / 9 June
AGM (TS Otter)	20 June
Armed Forces Day	30 June
Tewks Medieval Festival Car Parking	13/14 July
Area Sailing Competition	27/28 July
Chernobyl Children Visit	27 July
South West Training Camp(Raleigh)	28 July to 2 Aug
National Junior Summer Camp (Doncaster)	11-16 Aug ***

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 Lt Christine Harrison.

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 Able Cadet

Ord Cadet Amber
Ord Cadet Kara
Ord Cadet Lewis

Promotion to Ordinary Cadet

Cadet 1st Class Courtney
Cadet 1st Class Ellie
Cadet 1st Class Jacob
Cadet 1st Class Matthew
Cadet 1st Class Nathan

Promotion to Cadet 1st Class

Cadet Jack

Intermediate First Aid

Cadet Nathan

Basic First Aid

Cadet Adam
Cadet Bethany

Intermediate CIS

Ord Cadet Lewis

Intermediate Marine Eng

Cadet 1st Class Ellie
Cadet 1st Class Jacob
Able Cadet James
Ord Cadet Kara
Able Cadet Molly

Basic Piping

Cadet Cerys
Cadet Bethany



Meteorology

Ord Cadet Lewis
Able Cadet Josh
Cadet Matt

Offshore Grade 1

Cadet Matt

One Year's Good Conduct

Cadet Jack

Juniors

Commodore's Broad Pennant

Junior Cadet Teagan

Red Module

Jnr Cadet Kioren

Yellow Module

Jnr Cadet Eryn

A great Pickle Night

Cadets at TS Otter revelled at being waited upon by the Unit Staff led by the CO Lt (SSC) T Cooper. The formal Mess Dinner was a gastronomic delight thanks to Geraldine Liddy (Unit Treasurer) and Sharon Mercer, Joe Liddy and Cathy Anderson who helped her in the galley. The occasion was "Pickle Night", so called because news of Nelson's victory at Trafalgar and, sadly, of his death in battle, was brought to our shores by the sail schooner HMS Pickle, under the command of Lt John Lapenotiere. At the Trafalgar Night Dinner, the food is served to the adults by the cadets. The role are reversed at Pickle Night.

Mess President for the night was Leading Cadet Zoe. Guest of Honour was the Unit President, Lt Col Andrew Tabor, who gave a much appreciated formal speech and was accompanied at the high table by Mrs Sarah Griffiths (Unit Vice-President) and Mrs Eve Buchanan (Unit Chairman). The cadets, in very smart civvies, clearly enjoyed the evening, not least when fines (usually having to sing) were imposed for such misdemeanours as having your elbows on the table!

It was a great pleasure to attend such a happy occasion, even if this member of staff was run off his feet with all the fetching and carrying!

Padre Roger Grey, Chaplain, TS Otter



It doesn't come higher than the National Finals!

The National Finals of the Sea Cadet Drill and Piping Competition took place at HMS Raleigh, Plymouth, 12-13 April, and our Tewkesbury Unit Drill Team won medals and trophies! We are so proud of each and every member of that team. As our CO recently reminded us, it was honour enough to get through to the national finals and to represent the South West Area of the Sea Cadets in the unarmed drill squad section. When it was announced that we had come joint second, the look of delight on the faces of our drill team said it all! We were coming home with silver medals!

As if that is not cause enough to celebrate, the accolade of Best Squad Commander at this national competition went to our very own Leading Cadet Zoe. She showed exceptional skill and assurance in this role. She was handed her trophy by Admiral Sir Mark Stanhope GCB, National President of the Sea Cadets and former First Sea Lord.

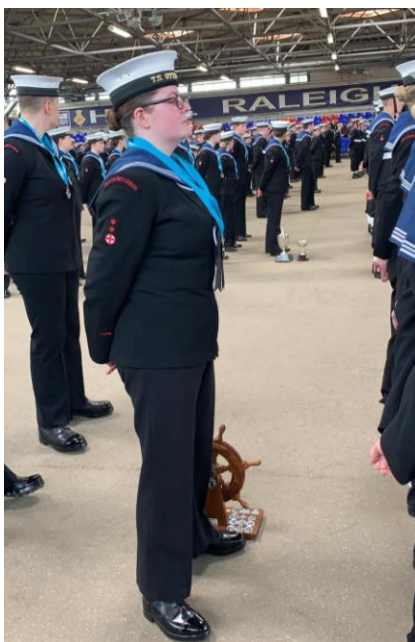
But there is yet another reason to feel proud. When the points from all the sections of this national Sea Cadet Competition were added up, the South West Area (the Area we represented) came first - yet more medals!

Watching the cadets from all over Britain compete in their various sections was both an inspiring and humbling experience. These young people showed a degree of self-discipline and a level of commitment that they can carry through into their adult lives. That will make all the difference to the world of tomorrow. We can be thankful for that and for them.

But our gratitude doesn't end there. Our highly successful Drill Team had to be trained to a very high standard. In this regard we have been exceptionally served by our own Commanding Officer, Lt (SCC) Tristan Cooper and drill specialist, Sub Lt (SCC) Daniel Howells. Thanks are due also to our newly appointed Unit President, Lt Col Andrew Tabor. He drove all the way down to Plymouth on the day itself to offer our cadets his personal good wishes and to support them in carrying out their drill routine. Thanks are also due to Lt (SCC) Holloway, the CO of the Malvern Unit, who provided and drove the mini-bus that got us safely there and back. It is no reflection on her to ask - is it not high time TS Otter had its own mini-bus?!

What a weekend! What Cadets! What a Unit!

Padre Roger Grey, Chaplain TS Otter



Leading Cadet Zoe, the Best Squad Commander in the country, stands proudly with her trophy



TS Otter Drill Team parade at HMS Raleigh with their Silver Medals

Our Outdoor Space - the end is in sight!

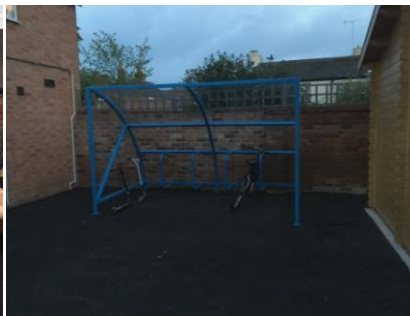
After being a dream for many years, our new marine engineering building and outside space are now a reality. Following removal of the old garage and renovation of the surfaces, the new building went up in February, and new equipment and furnishings are in the midst of being fitted. There is a new classroom at one end of the building and a marine engineering workshop at the other end, with large door openings to allow access to boats. This major project would not have been possible without the support of a wide range of organisations and individuals, including: the Gosling Foundation, the South West Area Sea Cadet Premises Fund, the George Cadbury Trust, the Summerfield Trust, the Prince's Charitable Trust, the Bernard Sunley Foundation, Renishaw, the Trinity House South West Charities Committee, the Honourable Company of Gloucestershire, the Rank Foundation, Persimmon Homes Community Champions, Mr Rawlinson, and Tewkesbury Town Council. The High Sheriff of Gloucestershire's fund added a new bike shelter and the Leggett family also kindly donated the funding for a volleyball equipment, which will provide lots of fun for the cadets. Also, at a recent presentational lunch in Manchester, we were awarded just under £5k from the Aviva Community Fund to equip the new building. We are grateful to every single one of these individuals and organisations for their generosity, and to our hard working Treasurer, Geraldine Liddy who has also done a fantastic job in securing an amazing level of funding support and guiding this project to a conclusion. We're sure all the cadets and staff at TS Otter will relish using this wonderful new facility which will be a legacy for years to come.



The new marine workshop provides great learning facilities



The outside space is transformed by the new surface, new bike shelter and refurbished outside area for colours ceremonies



In case you needed a reminder, this is what it used to look like!



A welcome visit from a former cadet

He achieved the rank of Leading Cadet and recently joined the Armed Forces. It was good to welcome back Scott on a brief visit to TS Otter. He was presented with an inscribed tankard to mark his time as a member of the Tewkesbury Sea Cadets in which he served with distinction.



A calling notice for our AGM!

Another year has passed and our Annual General Meeting is coming up fast. It will be taking place at the Tewkesbury Sea Cadets Unit on **Thursday 20th June 2019**. We hope as many parents and supporters as possible are able to join us for refreshments and cake at 7.00 pm with the meeting starting at 7.30 pm prompt.



A new resource for TS Otter parents

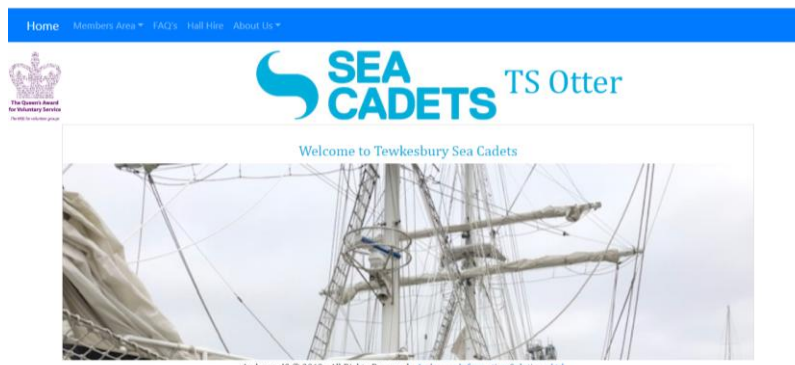
One of the regular comments we hear from parents of cadets at Tewkesbury Sea Cadets is the need for better communication about events and courses.

We have been listening and we have now put in place a new website with the aim of helping cadets, parents and guardians being better informed. In the 'Members Area' of the website, you will find a calendar kept up to dates with events taking place in the coming months, all the latest news and useful documents to download such as kit lists for Cadet training weekends.

The site is new and we hope that parents will provide their feedback as to how it can be improved and what else needs to be included to make it even more useful and supportive. One of the aims of the new web site is to reduce the number of questions and comments on Facebook as it is not really the best place for certain kinds of information for several reasons. Facebook will continue to have a place, of course, but if you have a question, please try and look at the web site first and if your question is not answered there, please email info@tsotter.org rather than place a question on Facebook and I will endeavour to update the web site as time goes by. While the web site will hopefully clarify much of what is planned, there can be no substitute for being at the unit at evening colours to listen to news and notices.

The web site is located at...<http://www.tsotter.org>. If you require access to the Members Area of the website, please get in contact with me at the above email address.

PO David Anderson



A wealth of opportunities

Sea Cadets train at TS Otter on two evenings each week throughout the year, and at other times. In the autumn and winter the cadets complete a Core Training Programme stipulated by HQ, and progress through the rates. Cadets learn a variety of skills, especially connected with boat work, and in doing so they have fun and make friends. Senior cadet training from about 15 years, develops leadership, presentation and teaching skills; to gain further promotion cadets attend a promotion board weekend. During the summer, cadets go boating to increase their afloat skills and preparing for competitions. The Corps Values of commitment, courage, discipline, respect, integrity and loyalty are central to all aspects of training. The Sea Cadets regularly assist with community events, and are a vital part of Remembrance Day and other parades.



Training courses cover a wealth of opportunities; there are regular district and area courses in a variety of skills from communication to catering, and adventure training to marine engineering. The afloat training ranges from mastering boating techniques locally on the River Avon to offshore sailing in a 'square rigger' around the coast of the British Isles, and beyond. This summer, two of our cadets will be sailing yachts from the South coast to Ostend and four others are sailing yachts around the Inner Hebrides. The variety of courses means that all cadets can discover what they enjoy, and they gain confidence from their success. Taking part in competitions increases their self-esteem; it is a privilege to see how tentative Juniors develop into assured and competent teenagers. The skills and attitudes that the cadets learn are valued by potential employers. Although the Sea Cadets is not a recruiting agency, some go on to the Armed Forces, Merchant Navy, Police and careers at sea.

Training Officer, Lt Christine Harrison

Fund raise whilst you shop



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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

During March we have been focusing on basic first Aid: the Juniors discussed what they thought First Aid was and the primary survey using the DRAB acronym. The following weeks we went on to calling for help using LIONEL and the recovery position which ended the evening playing sleeping lions at their request.

April continued the theme of first Aid looking at and discussing scenario cards. The Juniors have also been practising the evening colours routine in preparation for the Unit Review, which is something new for them, and they are taking on the role brilliantly.

OiC, Juniors, PO Campbell-Reeves

NB - in case you need to know...

DRAB = Danger, Response, Airway, Breathing

LIONEL = Location, Incident, Other services required, Number of casualties, Extent of injuries, Location confirmed



Juniors practising Evening Colours for the Unit Review



Juniors clearing a classroom for new furniture

Calling all parents!

The Volunteer Staff and Management Team of the Unit value the interest shown by parents and other adult supporters in the life-changing experience for young people that belonging to the Sea Cadets can provide. Your encouragement is always appreciated.

There is a further way to show your support. Every year, the unit has to raise money to meet basic costs. It would greatly assist the Unit Management Team in raising the necessary funds to have a working party of adult supporters whose focus would be fund raising activities throughout the year. Your involvement would be most welcome, and you would have the satisfaction of knowing that your efforts are helping to ensure that Tewkesbury Sea Cadets continues to flourish.



The person to contact if you are willing to help in this way is the Chairman of the Unit Management Team, Mrs Eve Buchanan. She will be very pleased to hear from you, hopefully by 10th June - she can be contacted by email at umc.tsotter@gmail.com or you can speak to her in person on a Wednesday Parade Night at the Unit.

Padre Roger Grey, Chaplain, TS Otter

Minibus fund raising

The staff at TS Otter will go to any lengths to fund raise for a minibus...including cycling up Everest! PO Anderson recently completed a virtual cycle up Mount Everest (8848 metres) to help raise cash towards a new minibus for Tewkesbury Sea Cadets. It wasn't easy...he said "it has to be the hardest thing I've ever done." So far he has raised almost £800 (inc Gift Aid), which is a great start to our fund! If you would like to contribute towards this, please use this weblink - <https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/giving/> - and search for David Anderson.

Since then, our minibus fund has had a huge boost from the Garfield Weston Foundation who have approved a grant of £7,500! We are extremely grateful to this grant-making trust and PO Anderson for taking our 'Minibus Mark Two' fund to such heights so quickly!



Divisions are held the last Wednesday of each month which is when No 1 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 May 2019 26th June 2019 31st July 2019 28th August 2019

Our details: TS Otter Headquarters: 01684 298991 email: Tewkesburyseacadets@gmail.com
 www: sea-cadets.org/tewkesbury

Useful Contacts	Role	Contact No	email
Lt (SCC) Tris Cooper	Commanding Officer		tristancooper@live.co.uk
PO (SCC) Rob Ashmeade	Executive Officer	01684 275381	rob.ashmeade@uwclub.net
Eve Buchanan	Chairman – Unit Management Team		umc.tsotter@gmail.com
Reverend Roger Grey	TS Otter Chaplain		grey263@btinternet.com
CPO (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

