



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

## Tewkesbury Sea Cadets Newsletter - Winter 2020

### Welcome from our Commanding Officer, PO David Anderson (SCC) - "The View From The Bridge"

Clunk! There, that was it, the sound of the penny dropping. OK, so you may not hear the penny drop, but you can certainly see when a cadet has finally caught on to something that they are being taught by one of our instructors. The frown turns upside down into a smile, there is a sparkle in the eye and they nudge their neighbour, "Ahhh, I see....". It is a truly great feeling, unlike any other I've known, when you feel like you have made a difference and passed on some little nugget of wisdom or knowledge to a young person. Giving them that Head Start part of the Cadet Experience. That's one of the reasons I do it, you know, Sea Cadets.

I joined some five years ago and had no idea I would become Commanding Officer one day. It's a challenge, it wouldn't be fun if it wasn't, and there is a great deal to learn and an enormous amount of satisfaction to be had. Since I've taken command, I've been keen to make the most of our talented staff, committee and facilities. Take the RYA Training Centre status for example. I'm keen to have a boating day on the first Saturday of the month(ish), weather dependent of course. This will enable us to present more RYA Qualifications to our cadets than ever before. Check the Google calendar for 'boating day' dates. The new Marine Engineering (ME) workshop has been used for ME instruction, as well as other classes too like Piping & Seamanship. Our Boats Officer has been diligently working away, with some helpful parents, preparing our fleet for the new season. I'm also looking forward to us being able to do something we have not done for a long time, but I'm keeping that one under my hat....for now, but watch this space. It is a very exciting time at Tewkesbury Sea Cadets.

The Cadet Portal App is something that those at Sea Cadet Headquarters have been working on for a while and they are just putting on the finishing touches. We have been invited to take early sight by becoming a Buddy Unit. It should be a game changer to how cadets monitor their progress and express interest on courses. There will still be paperwork to do to book onto one of those many magnificent courses the cadets do, but it should make the communications between parent/carer and our Admin and Training Officers a little easier.

Right now, Tewkesbury Sea Cadets is a busy changing environment full of buzz and excitement. You can almost feel it when you walk onto the main deck. Do make sure you come and take a look at evening colours and check out what we are up to. Be careful though, if you like a challenge, giving something back and getting a great feeling of satisfaction, you might be tempted to stay a while. Who knows where that might lead you.



PO (SCC) David Anderson

### Forthcoming Events in 2020

Nat Football Comp (Grantham)	21st-23rd Feb
Unit Training WE (Unit)	29th Feb-1 March
Area Drill & Piping Comp (HMS Raleigh)	13th-15th March
Unit Review	25th March
District Training	10th-12th April
Nat Drill & Piping Comp (HMS Raleigh)	24-26 April
Royal Navy Parade (Unit)	27th April
Half Marathon Car Parking (Tewkesbury)	10th May
District Regatta (Tewkesbury)	5th-7th June
Annual General Meeting (Unit)	18th June
Area Paddle Sport (Wales)	20th-21st June
District Sailing Regatta (Tewks)	27th June

\*\*\*

**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 Sub 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 Divisions since the last newsletter:

#### **Promotions**

**Able Cdt to Leading Cdt:** James, Molly

**Ordinary Cdt to Able Cdt:** Kara, Nathaniel, Matthew

**Cdt FC to Ordinary Cdt:** Jacob, Nathan

**Cdt to Cdt FC:** Adam, Cerys, Joe, Nyah, Toyah, Xander, Verity

**New Entry to Cdt:** Aaron, Alfie, Ben, Eryn, Jake, Jess, Tegan

**To Leading Junior Cadet** - Logan

#### **Badges & Awards**

**Rowing Instructor:** LC James

**Rowing Coxswain:** LC Molly, AC Josh, AC Matthew

**Supervised Coxswain:** CFC Nyah

**Competent Crew:** CFC Adam, Cdt Alfie, CFC Angelique, Cdt Ben, CFC Cerys, Cdt Eryn, CFC Jack, OC Jacob, Cdt Jake, Cdt Jess, CFC Joe, LJC Logan, OC Nathan, CFC Verity, CFC Xander

**Offshore Sail Level 2:** LC James, AC Kara

**Offshore Sail Level 1:** AC Josh, AC Lewis, AC Matthew

**Offshore Power Level 1:** CFC Adam, OC Jacob

**Basic Windsurfing:** OC Jacob, Cdt Kioren

**Youth Sail Level 3:** CFC Nyah

**Basic Marine Engineering:** CFC Adam, CFC Cerys, OC Jacob, CFC Joe, AC Lewis, OC Nathan, CFC Verity

**Basic Seamanship:** Cdt Eryn, Cdt Jake, Cdt Jess, Cdt Tegan, CFC Nyah

**Basic Peer Educator:** LC James, AC Josh, AC Kara, AC Lewis, LC Molly, AC Nathaniel

**Basic CIS:** Cdt Alfie, Cdt Kioren

**Basic Mountain Biking:** OC Jacob, Cdt Jess, AC Nathaniel, Cdt Tegan

**Basic Climbing:** Cdt Ben, Cdt Eryn, LC James, OC Nathan

**Basic Navigation:** Cdt Aaron, CFC Adam, Cdt Ben, CFC Jack, Cdt Jake, CFC Joe, OC Nathan, CFC Nyah, CFC Verity

**Basic Catering:** CFC Angelique, CFC Cerys, OC Courtney, Cdt Eryn, Cdt Jess, Cdt Tegan, CFC Toyah

**Basic First Aid:** Cdt Alfie, Cdt Ben, Cdt Eryn, Cdt Jake, Cdt Jess, Cdt Kioren, Cdt Tegan

**Intermediate First Aid:** CFC Adam, CFC Angelique, CFC Cerys, CFC Jack, OC Nathaniel, CFC Toyah, CFC Xander

**Advanced Piping:** LC James

**One Year's Good Conduct:** CFC Cerys, CFC Joe, CFC Toyah, CFC Xander

**Two Years' Good Conduct:** OC Nathan

**Three Years' Good Conduct:** LC James

## It's officially open!

Tewkesbury Sea Cadets were thrilled to welcome the new Lord Lieutenant of Gloucestershire, Edward Gillespie OBE, to officially open their new marine engineering workshop and outside space in July last year. After watching the colours ceremony held on the new outside parade area, he inspected the cadets. Then, following a blessing by Padre, the Lord Lieutenant cut the red ribbon to declare the new facility open. Mr Gillespie also had the opportunity to watch the cadets undertake parade night activities in the new marine engineering workshop and the main unit building.

The achievement of this project was made possible by extensive fund raising by the Unit Treasurer, Geraldine Liddy, and many generous grants made by local and county benefactors. The new workshop adds to the already extensive training facilities available to our cadets at TS Otter.



## Safe Within God's Harbour

It is with great gratitude for her distinguished services to Tewkesbury Sea Cadets that we pay tribute to Mrs Anne Cadbury OBE JP DL, a former President of the Unit. She died on the 1st January 2020 at the age of 94 after a life devoted to the well-being of others. Her funeral service was conducted by the Padre and a Memorial Service will follow on 4th April at 2.00 pm in Tewkesbury Abbey.



*Anne Cadbury*

Anne Cadbury touched Gloucestershire life and beyond at so many points, but it is as our Unit President for many years that we remember her. She was a generous supporter of Tewkesbury Sea Cadets and took a keen interest in all that we do. We were one of the last organisations she retired from because of advancing years and was delighted when her friend, Colonel Andrew Tabor, succeeded her as President. Having moved to Tewkesbury Fields Care Home, she was especially pleased when cadets from our unit, led by our Treasurer, Geraldine Liddy, created a patio garden outside her room.

Those of us fortunate to know Anne Cadbury will draw inspiration from her active concern for the well-being of others. May she rest in peace and rise in glory.

*Padre Roger Grey, Chaplain TS Otter*



*A young, but recognisable Anne!*

*Anne with our current President, Col Andrew*



*The cadets, together with Geraldine Liddy, ensure Anne's patio was always a pleasure to look at.*



## Outstanding Service as Commanding Officer

For personal reasons, Tristan Cooper resigned last summer as TS Otter's Commanding Officer. It was a great blow to the Unit that Tristan had led with such distinction, and a great sadness for him.



A former cadet at the Tewkesbury Unit, rising through the ranks to become Cadet Petty Officer, Tristan often spoke with affection of the way the Unit had nurtured him and his twin brother, Jon. A graduate of Southampton University and with a teaching post at Evesham, Tristan took on the command of TS Otter in the rank of Sub-Lieutenant (rising to Lieutenant) at a challenging time in its history. He gave unsparingly of himself and generously of his time and the Unit thrived under his command. Under his leadership, and with the support of committed staff and cadets, the unit was given the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service - a high accolade indeed - together with other awards. This Chaplain would also like to add his gratitude for Tristan's unfailing support to him personally and to the chaplaincy within the Unit.

At a delightful party hosted at the Tewkesbury Sailing Club, the staff of the unit took a fond farewell of Tristan. At the same time, we also took leave of Daniel Howells, whose service to TS Otter was outstanding in its own right. Both will find a warm welcome whenever they choose to visit.

Bravely stepping into the shoes of Commanding Officer is PO (SCC) David Anderson, a former Submariner in the Royal Navy. We wish him well in what is a demanding and challenging role.

*Roger Grey, Chaplain TS Otter*

## And welcome to our new Commanding Officer



As noted elsewhere in our newsletter, we are very delighted to report that PO (SCC) David Anderson is the new Commanding Officer of TS Otter. As well as having had a previous naval career, PO Anderson has been an instructor with the Unit for five years.

## UMT News

Following our last AGM in June 2019, our Acting Chairman, Eve Buchanan, handed the reins over to Vice Chairman Andy Emmett and took over his role. We wish them both all the best in their vital roles in managing the Unit.



*Our Chairman,  
Andy Emmett*

*Eve Buchanan, our Vice  
Chairman*

## Remembrance Sunday - 10th November 2019

It is always a moving occasion, with crowds gathered round Tewkesbury's Memorial Cross; the unusual absence of traffic because of road closures, and deep respectful silence as we remembered those who died in two World Wars and conflicts since.

Before gathering at the Cross, Tewkesbury Abbey was packed for the annual Remembrance Sunday Service, which draws together people of all ages. Especially notable are the youth organisations of the town and district in their smart uniforms, including Tewkesbury Sea Cadets whose bearing and marching were of the highest order. Tewkesbury Sea Cadets also provided the guard at the foot of the Memorial Cross and did so with great dignity. We were joined at this year's Act of Remembrance by a former District Officer for the Severn District, Lt Cdr (SC) Michael Pritchard RNR.

We must never forget the ultimate sacrifice made by so many in war, nor waver in our determination to make a world at peace a reality.

*Padre Roger Grey, Chaplain TS Otter*



*Providing the guard at the Cross*



*Taking the salute at the Town Hall*

*Photos reproduced with kind permission of Jack Boskett*

## Boating Success in 2019

Boating has been a very strong feature in the life of Tewkesbury Sea Cadets during 2019, with successes at District, Area and National levels of the Sea Cadet Corps by Cadets Verity, Nathan and Lewis. Especially notable was the National Rowing Regatta held on 31st August at the Excel Centre in the London Docklands area.

In spite of the distraction of aircraft flying in and out of London City Airport close by, our cadets remained focused on the job in hand. Verity and Nathan won Gold medals, thanks to their skill and the excellent training they received from Unit Assistant Stewart Harrison, who rowed for his Cambridge College. If that wasn't enough, Molly got Silver and Lewis came 4th. Our hard working Boats Officer, Chief Petty Officer Paul Mercer was also on hand to offer encouragement and advice. It doesn't get tougher than the National Regatta with cadets from all over the United Kingdom taking part!

*Padre*



*Cadets Verity and Nathan accept their trophy from the Captain, Sea Cadets*

*Cadets taking a well earned rest at the Excel Waterfront*



## Parade with a Difference



One of our nation's greatest naval heroes, Vice Admiral Horatio Lord Nelson, is honoured each year by Sea Cadets with a parade. This is held as near as possible to 21st October, the date of the Battle of Trafalgar in which Nelson and the British Fleet won a decisive victory over the combined French and Spanish Fleets.

Each Sea Cadet Unit within the Severn District takes it in turn to host the parade in which all the Units take part. In 2019 it was the turn of the Hereford Unit, but it was a parade with a difference. Rather than being held on the customary Sunday, it was held on a Saturday when the City of Hereford would be packed with people. It was led by a Military Band of the Royal

Marines - the first time this has happened. The stirring music of the band certainly put a spring in the steps of the cadets and the large numbers looking on were certainly left in no doubt that the Sea Cadet Corps in the Severn District is alive and well. The Trafalgar Day Parade is also marked with a Church Service, organised by the local Unit with the help of the District Chaplain. This was held in the impressive cathedral at Hereford, where the Dean made us most welcome. The Sermon took the form of a dialogue between Nelson (played by a Hereford cadet) and the District Chaplain.

A parade with a difference it certainly was, and a huge debt of gratitude is owed to the Chairman of the Hereford Unit Management Team, and those who helped him with the organising of this great event in the Sea Cadet calendar.

*Padre Roger Grey, Chaplain - TS Otter*

## Carols by Candlelight

A cold and wet evening on 18 December saw us gathered for the Unit's annual Candlelight Carol Service. Always a popular event, this year's seemed particularly packed, with the parade deck full of a mix of parents, staff from Area and sister units, former OCs, our supporters from the local Civic organisations and RNA and, of course, our President, Lt Col Andrew Tabor and one of our Vice Presidents, Sarah Griffiths. Padre Roger Grey led us through the proceedings in his inimitable style, with a section from the Town Band under the direction of Helen Walters encouraging some lusty singing of carols old and new. As the contents of the crib grew steadily in the glow of candles and twinkling stars of the lights overhead, and staff, cadets and Unit Management Team members joined the Padre for readings and prayers, Christmas seemed to come that little bit closer.



With the service complete, the decks were cleared for refreshments delivered by the Unit Management Team thanks to the customary culinary flair of Sharon Mercer and Geraldine Liddy, I'm sure leaving some of the cadets wondering what so many adults seem to talk about for so long as conversations amongst the wider TS Otter community flowed as easily as the delicious (alcohol free) mulled wine! Many thanks to all involved in making this a highlight of the TS Otter year.

*Group Captain Clive Montellier*

## Fantastic Fundraisers

Thanks to Morrisons and Tesco in Cheltenham, we had the opportunity to raise much needed funds for the unit by lending our cadets to do bag packing two weekends on the trot. Their hard work meant that these two events raised just over £1000, which is a great boost to our funds. Our huge thanks to the cadets and staff who gave up their time to do this, especially those who did both weekends. And we are really grateful to the very generous shoppers of Tewkesbury and Cheltenham who gave to our charity, including several shoppers who gave £10 notes - clearly our cadets' smiles and bag packing skills were a great success!



## District Drill Success

Our year got off to a fantastic start with great success at the District Drill Competition held in Gloucester. TS Otter were winners of the District Unarmed Drill Competition, 2nd Best Squad Commander and Best Unit in the District for 2019. Well done everyone and good luck for the Area Competition in March.

*Our winning squad together with the TS Otter instructors that made it happen!*



*A closer look at that fantastic Best Unit trophy*



# Just Juniors

During May, June, July and August the juniors were on the water, having fun learning to row as a team. During July we went to Hereford for the junior boating weekend, which included rowing, kayaking and powerboating as well as team games and swimming in the river.

October we were back in the class room learning about First Aid, 'SHOUT' keeping safe and joining the unit for the Mop Fair.

November we looked at the phonetic alphabet and used the radios to play battleships as well as practising some drill. The juniors joined the unit for the Remembrance Day parade.

December we had fun doing the chip shop survey, marking each one on cleanliness, service and of course taste. The year ended with the carol service where the juniors took an active part taking the figurines to the crib. Juniors also helped with fundraising helping at the bag packing. This year the Christmas weekend was at Evesham unit, which covered First Aid, knotwork, iceskating, Christmas crafts and a disco.

January we have looked at who is who at the unit as well as a tour for the new juniors. We have also experienced a session of the new STEM module, designing and making a free standing structure to hold a balloon as high as possible.

There has been a lot of movement in Juniors recently. We said goodbye to Alfie, Tegan, Eryn and Abi as they moved up to Seniors. We also said hello to Chloe, Ollie and more recently, Oliver, Caitlin, Autumn, Lowan and Elliot.

We also welcome PO Regan who has joined the Junior section and look forward to the year ahead.

*OIC, Juniors, PO Campbell-Reeves*



## Our new, new Minibus



Many of you will remember the sad demise of our previous new minibus...well we are now the proud owners of a very smart newer bus! We took delivery of it just before Remembrance Sunday which gave our cadets the opportunity to pose with it. Huge thanks to our Treasurer, Geraldine Liddy, for her fund raising efforts





## And more competition success!

June was our District Regatta and, as you can see, we did well!



TS Otter had some fantastic results in September's District Swimming Gala coming away with the trophy of Overall Winner on top of the many medals in individual and medley swims.



And finally, TS Otter did us proud at the District Football Competition in November. We had wins from Senior Girls, Senior Boys combined with Stroud and the Junior Section combined with Malvern. Well done everyone.

**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.

### Forthcoming dates for divisions:

26th Feb 2020

25th March 2020

29th April 2019

27th May 2019

**Our details:** TS Otter Headquarters: 01684 298991  
www: [tsotter.org](http://tsotter.org)

email: [Tewkesburyseacadets@gmail.com](mailto:Tewkesburyseacadets@gmail.com)

### Useful Contacts

### Role

### email

PO (SCC) David Anderson	Commanding Officer	<a href="mailto:david@andersonis.co.uk">david@andersonis.co.uk</a>
Andy Emmett	Chairman – Unit Management Team	<a href="mailto:umc.tsotter@gmail.com">umc.tsotter@gmail.com</a>
Sub Lt (SCC) Christine Harrison	Training Officer	<a href="mailto:ceh.harrison@gmail.com">ceh.harrison@gmail.com</a>
Reverend Roger Grey	TS Otter Chaplain	<a href="mailto:grey263@btinternet.com">grey263@btinternet.com</a>
CPO (SCC) Stuart McGhee	Stores, uniform queries etc	
Jane Montellier	Secretary (inc newsletter & website)	<a href="mailto:secretary.tsotter@gmail.com">secretary.tsotter@gmail.com</a>

### 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

