



Newsletter

Spring 2010

New Pulling Boat

The new pulling boat for the Sea Cadets has completed its development.

The development costs of £100,000 were covered by a grant from Trinity House, London, and the boats are now available to order at a price of £2,500 each.

The Branch would like to provide boats for the Units in the region and is looking to raise £25,000 to meet the costs in 2010.



Collingwood 2010

As far as Geordies are concerned, the real victor of the Battle of Trafalgar was Vice Admiral Cuthbert Collingwood, a local lad known affectionately as 'Cuddy'.

The 200th anniversary of his death was marked by a weekend of events, including a Civic Reception in Newcastle, a Naval Parade through the City, and a Memorial Service at the Cathedral. Sea Cadets from both sides of the river took part in these events.

The Collingwood 2010 Festival continues until 22nd October and there is an attractive Festival Brochure, details can be obtained from the Collingwood 2010 website: <http://www.collingwood2010.co.uk>.



Sea Cadets form up ready for the Naval Parade.

New Look for the MSSC

Five years after its formation by the merger of the Marine Society and the Sea Cadet Association, the Charity has taken stock of its operations and how it presents itself.

The new look is set to take place later this month - details in the next newsletter.

South Shields (TS Collingwood) Cadets and staff provided the honour guard at the Civic Reception.



Members' Visit - HMS Ark Royal

The Branch was invited to make a party for a tour of HMS Ark Royal when she visited the Tyne at the end of February.

The 10 members who boarded the ship were taken to the Wardroom for coffee and a briefing on the ship before being given a guided tour.



New President at Hebburn Unit

Hebburn Unit has been privileged to have Hon Nigel Westwood as its new President.



Nigel is a former High Sheriff of Tyne and Wear and serves as the Honorary Royal Norwegian Consul.

Mrs Westwood has a long association with the Unit, her father, Reg Ibstock, established the Unit in its former HQ when he was at Hawthorn Leslie. The new President also presented PO NAME with her Cadet Forces Medal.

Nautical Institute North East visits Hebburn Unit

The presentation night at Hebburn was also the occasion for the first visit by the committee of the North East Branch of the Nautical Institute to a local Sea Cadet Unit. Captain Paul Armitage and Captain Colin Pratt made awards to cadets.

Members' Visit - South Tyneside College

The Branch visit to South Tyneside College on 15th March was enjoyed by 16 members who were given the chance to try their hand at the Bridge Simulators.



After an exercise in which members could bring a vessel into the Tyne, the climax of the evening was a virtual replenishment visit to an offshore rig in very rough conditions.

Prior to this, the members were treated to an excellent buffet followed by a very interesting and well-informed talk by Chris Thompson on the extent to which the bridge simulators are used for training.



The college runs a three day course for experienced Masters and Mates who are involved in manoeuvring vessels alongside an offshore installation and is designed to raise the level of risk awareness by the personnel operating in the offshore industry.

Many thanks go to Gavin Holt, one of our Branch members, for the excellent photographs taken at this and other events.

Rescue recognised by the Tyne Life Boat Society

Captain Pritchard, OBE, of HMS Bulwark, presented the Tyne Life Boat Society Medals for bravery to Lt Patterson of Hebburn Unit and PPO Navi of Jarrow Unit.

Using a Sea Cadet rescue boat, they saved a man from drowning in the River Tyne during a training weekend.

Both men were commended by the Tyne Life



Boat Society for their 'clear thinking and prompt action' which resulted in a successful rescue effort.

This came from effective training, producing an instant and controlled reaction in an emergency situation'.

Redcar Cadets Receive a Cheque from HMS Bulwark

Cadets and staff from Redcar Unit had a guided tour of HMS Bulwark when she visited the Tyne in January.



Lt David Gooding RN conducted the tour and is seen presenting a cheque to the cadets.

The money was part of the ship's charity fund raising and goes to the 'Royalist' appeal.

Northern Area Conference

For the first time the MSSC Tyne Tees Branch made a short presentation at the Area Conference in Rosyth.

Branch Chairman, Victor Spong, outlined the Branch's support for the region, including raising funds for the replacement sailing boats for Derwenthaugh Boat Station and finding professional support for local Units.



He re-stated the Branch's commitment to improving facilities for cadet boating in the region.

Looking ahead to 2010, The Branch aimed to provide new pulling boats for the region. A Boating Strategy has been undertaken to identify longer term funding needs for the future.

Derwenthaugh Boat Station

The annual report of Derwenthaugh shows a 60% increase in the use of the Boat Station in 2009 over 2008.

This has largely been due to the installation of the pontoons, allowing all-tide access to the river.



186 cadets and staff received national boating qualifications during the year. Principal, Alfie Simpson, stated "the investment in the pontoons has clearly paid dividends for boat usage.

We received our new sailing boats during the season and skill levels are improving. Hopefully the new pulling boats will show further gains in 2010.

The lack of a residential facility is the only constraint on a much higher level of use'.

Forthcoming Events

2010

is to be an interesting year for the Branch with many events currently being planned. Already underway is the Cadet 150 event, which marks 150 years since the Cadet forces first started. The four cadet movements are joining together to participate in a range of activities throughout the year.

The Sea Cadet led event will be in the Metro Centre, Gateshead, on the weekend of 26th and 27th June. Others will be held at Durham, Sunderland, Newcastle and Hartlepool during June.

This is to be similar to the well-attended seacadetfests of previous years and will be hosted by Magic 1152 presenters Steve Colman and Nick Wright. For further information on the Cadet 150 events, visit <http://www.cadet150.org>.

Plans to visit the Port of Tyne Harbourmaster are also underway, along with an Alumni event at the Boat Station.

The Sea Cadet Summer Ball is to be held on the 17th July at Gateshead Civic Centre. Tickets are available for all Sea Cadet Units and MSSC members, at a cost of £27.50. We would like to make up an MSSC table again this year and an invitation will be issued to Branch members.

Finally, during the summer, there will be a repeat of the fun day we had at the Boat Station last August, where Branch members will be given the opportunity to try out the different boats and then finish the day with a barbeque in the Boat Station grounds.

Details of these events will be announced later in the year, and will also appear on the Branch Website, www.mssc-tynetees.org.

If you have an article that you would like to be considered for inclusion in our Newsletter, please send to our Branch Secretary, Gwynne, email: gwynne.burn@gmail.com.

We will try to include as many interesting photos and stories as we can, however this is dependent on space and timing of the Newsletter.

A note from the Chairman

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ne of the objectives for the Branch for 2010 is to fund the Boat Station development. I am pleased to say that the first stage of this was completed with the launch of the new sailing dinghies and we are now well under way with raising funds for the new pulling boat.

We have now completed a longer term study of the provision of boating for the Region. This clearly shows the value of Boat Stations for providing quality training. Our aim is to re-visit the case for a residential facility for Derwenthaugh and to look at the feasibility of setting up a facility on Teesside. If they go ahead, these projects will be the main focus of our fund raising activities in the years ahead.

Membership has continued to grow and we now have over 60 members. MSSC Headquarters in London has introduced a new database system which is still giving problems so that the processing of national memberships is being delayed. My apologies to members who are waiting for something from London.

My thanks to Chris Matthews for all his good work on this and for organising a splendid members' evening at the South Tyneside College.

You can help us in our work of supporting local Sea Cadets simply by becoming a member of the Branch. Chris Matthews will be happy to send you an application form (Tel: 01912856494).

Launch of HMS Defender

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adets from our North East Units helped form the guard for the launch of HMS Defender on 21st October 2009.

Thanks to Guisborough Unit for the excellent photo.



The Marine Society & Sea Cadets

Patron: HM The Queen

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