



Newsletter

Autumn 2009

New Boats Commissioned at Derwenthaugh

North East Sea Cadets had five sailing boats commissioned into service by the Mayor of Gateshead at the Derwenthaugh Boat Station on 19th August. Two Laser 2000 dinghies were launched down the Derwenthaugh slipway by Sir Ian Wigglesworth, Chairman of the Port of Tyne Authority, and former TA member, Tony Glenton, after a blessing by the Sea Cadet Chaplain. Lt Jamie Nisbet, RNR, launched a Laser Pico in memory of his father, Bill Nisbet, who had been Chairman of Gosforth Sea Cadets for many years. Two Bosun dinghies were launched by Jacky Warren and Hume Hargreave.

Alfie Simpson, Principal of the Boat Station, said, "These new sailing craft ensure that the Sea Cadet have access to the safest and cost efficient craft. The purchase has been made possible by generous donations from a number of companies and charitable trusts."

On the day the Cadets enjoyed showing their skills to very impressed guests, Cadet Petty Officer Karina Pringle, of the Ashington Unit, added, "These Laser 2000s are a tough challenge, but are great to sail once you have the skill and confidence."

Sponsors

The Branch is grateful to the following sponsors for their generous support for the boat replacement programme:

- Inchcape Trust
- J Paul Getty Jr Charitable Trust
- Hadrian Trust
- Port of Tyne
- WA Handley Trust
- Warburton's the Bakers



It's Fun Being a Branch Member!

Visit of Royalist to Hartlepool

In June, members were invited aboard TS Royalist, the Sea Cadet Corps sailing brig, when she visited Hartlepool for a crew change.

The visit was hosted by Andy Milne, MSSC Corporate Affairs Director, and Phil Davies, CO of Royalist. The evening started with an impressive display of drill by the Sea Cadets and Marine Cadets of Hartlepool Unit. The guests were then given a tour of the ship as well as a talk given each week to trainees.



The ship has been running for almost 40 years, and members were amazed by the small amount of space allowed for 24 cadets. It was good to hear that the MSSC has taken a decision to replace Royalist, and that they have launched an appeal for funds to build the new ship, as well as to cover the cost of

A fun day at Derwenthaugh Boat Station

Members and their guests were invited to spend an afternoon at Derwenthaugh Boat Station trying out the different boats used by the Sea Cadets.



They were given a run down of the different types by Alfie Simpson who introduced members to the 'Chuggies' (towing boats), the 'Whizzy Boats' (rescue boats) and the various types of sailing dinghy.



The guests chose which type they wanted to try and were helped by members of the instructional team at Derwenthaugh.

Summer Ball

For the first time the Branch had a table at the Sea Cadet Summer Ball which was held at Gateshead Civic Centre.

The July event was attended by staff and committee members from across the region. With a live band, dancing and good food, it was voted a huge success by all.



During the evening, Lt Cdr Alfie Simpson was presented by Lee Lowden with the Fabulous Accident and Recovery Trophy.



The Trophy, an indication of the usual Sea Cadet sense of humour, was dreamt up following an unfortunate accident involving the Zodiac rescue boat that was being driven by Alfie during one of the many courses held at the Boat Station.

Some had a try at more than one type of boat, with most preferring the exhilaration of the Whizzy boats.

The very brave found the new sailing Laser 2000 to be very lively, with some getting rather wet in the process. Once the boats were safely off the water, it was barbeque time.



Lindsay Miller, our Branch Treasurer, provided the barbeque facilities with a selection of fish, meat and salad on offer. It was thoroughly enjoyed by all with a call for this to be repeated next year.



Branch Donate Shipwright's Tools

Coble and Keelboat Society

A donation of Shipwright's tools was made from the Tyne Tees Branch of the Marine Society Sea Cadets to the Coble and Keelboat Society (CKS) at Cullercoats on Tuesday the 6th October. The delegation from the MSSC were Gwynne Burn, Chris Matthews and Lt Cdr (SCC) Alfie Simpson RNR.

The Coble and Keelboat Society was founded in 1987. The Society was established as a forum



for anyone interested in the heritage of traditional working boats of the North East Coast of England. The society

maintains that heritage by reclaiming boats and continuing to use them. Members of the Society include fishermen, boat builders, historians, modellers, poets, writers and amateur sailors.

The society members were overjoyed with the donation and the tools will form part of their display when exhibiting at local RNLI events.

An in depth introduction of the tools and their uses was given by Mr Nigel Gray a local enthusiast and boat builder.



The tools were originally owned by Alexander Cameron Williamson who started work at the age of 14 at Robb's of Leith then continued his profession at Rosyth, Berwick, Barrow and Campbelltown.

The Chairman of the CKS David Sells presented Alfie Simpson with 2 books and pictures in gratitude for the donation

You can find out more information about the society on their website:

<http://coble-keelboatsociety.org/>



Annual General Meeting

The Branch AGM was held on 8th September at the headquarters of Hebburn Unit Sea Cadets.

The Committee were elected to continue for another year, so that the Officers are:

Chairman, Victor Spong,

Secretary, Gwynne Burn,

Treasurer, Lindsay Miller,

Membership Secretary, Chris Matthews.

After the meeting, members were given a briefing on the progress of Hebburn Unit, by the CO, Lt (SCC) Paul Patterson, RNR. This was followed by a tour of this impressive riverside HQ building, which has a large main

deck, a slipway to the river, a boathouse and a small bore rifle range.

The building is used by many other Units in the region for residential courses.

Members were able to see at first hand cadets under training and the work by the Unit committee in bring the building up to date. Members attended Evening Colours after which an excellent buffet was provided by the Unit.



Out and about with our local Sea Cadets

Ashington Girls Make Good

Two of Ashington Sea Cadets are celebrating their achievements this summer. Katy Metcalf (18) and Karina Pringle (17) have both passed their RYA Sailing Instructors in May of this year, at Derwenthaugh



Karina with Katie after learning they'd passed their sailing instructor's course.

Boat Station.

Katy, since passing her A Levels, has decided to take a gap year and has joined the staff at the Abernathy Trust in Inverness. Part of her duties will be teaching water sports. Following

Instructors' weekend

Katie and Karina weren't the only ones to achieve success in gaining their sailing instructor's course.

The Branch would also like to congratulate Lt Cdr Dave Finlay (DO Northumberland), PO Daniel Morgan (Newburn Unit) and PO Donna Morris (Wallsend Unit) who also passed the sailing instructor's course.

Also to be congratulated are C/Sgt Wilson (Ashington Unit), PO Leanne Tonks (Wallsend Unit), PO Chris Hindhaugh (Ashington Unit), PO Lauren Mullarkey (Newcastle East Unit), and PO Darren Tannock (Newburn Unit) who successfully passed the power boat instructor's course.

The ten new instructors will now be able to pass on their boating knowledge and skills to the Cadets in their Units.

this gap year, she will be studying at Ambleside University. Katy joined the cadets in 2003.

Karina had been selected to represent the Sea Cadet Corps at the Indian Regatta in Mumbai in October of this year, one of only 4 Cadets from the UK to be chosen.

The Branch provided its first Cadet Bursary to help meet Karina's costs. Karina joined the Sea Cadets in 2004 and this year passed for Cadet Petty Officer.



Left to right: CO Pauline Finlay, Karina, Victor Spong

Do you have something to share?

We are interested in the success stories from all our Units across the North East.

If you have an outstanding achievement, or a piece of news that you would like to share with other Units, please send your article to the newsletter email address.

Photographs should be attached separately to the article in order that the best quality can be achieved.

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The Marine Society & Sea Cadets

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