

### Launch of Trinity 500s—Chester-le-Street Unit and Derwenthaugh Boat Station

**T**HE branch coordinated the funding for a suite of eight Trinity 500 rowing boats to be delivered to the region.

The first two boats were launched at Chester-le-Street Unit in the presence of the Lord Lieutenant of Durham (Sir Paul Nicholson), together with the Chairman of Durham County Council (Cllr Mac Williams) and Kevan Jones MP. The Tyne South District Guard was present with the South Shields band.



The second launch event was four weeks later at Derwenthaugh Boat Station where four more boats were launched by the Vice Lord Lieutenant of Tyne & Wear (Mr Fred Hoult) with Commodore SR Baum RN, the Naval Regional Commander, Councillor Malcolm Brain of Gateshead Council and David Byrne of the Nautical Institute which has provided two of the boats.



The remaining boats will be sited at Ashington and Hartlepool.

The Branch is very grateful for the support of the Nautical Institute North East and a number of local and national charities that provided the funds for these boats.

The name Trinity 500 given to the type is in commemoration of the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Trinity House which funded the development of the design.

especially in 'alternative education'. Whilst we have been frustrated by the slowness of the preparatory phase, it has given us time to develop funding, as well as to engage with other providers which will improve the sustainability of the project. We are keen to find a sponsor for our plans to install renewable energy systems. If any member or support can help with a source of funding for this, please let our Chairman know.

### Derwenthaugh Project

**T**HE Residential project has been well supported by local and national charities and funds have been coming in steadily. We have had a bit of a drawback when initial groundwork investigations proved the site to be on 'made ground'. This will mean the need for piling and some remedial treatment over and above what was expected.

Against this, the project had found strong support among local groups working with young people



## Dinner at Gateshead Unit

**I**N an unusual twist to the usual Cook Steward course run for sea cadets, this year's course at Gateshead Unit laid on a Mess Dinner for Branch members as its test piece.

Fourteen Branch Members attending this, joined by Sea Cadet District Staff, and were rewarded with an extremely excellent meal. The meal was served very professionally by the cadets from Units across Northumberland and Tyne South Districts.



Branch Chairman (Victor Spong) congratulated the cadets and the instructional team on the standards achieved. He echoed the view of many that if this was the second class course, can we come back for the first class version?



## Annual General Meeting

**A** RECORD number of members and supporters, including Chairmen and representatives from 7 Units, attended the AGM held at Wallsend Unit. We were honoured to welcome the High Sheriff of Tyne & Wear, Mr Geoff Hodgson. This gave very encouraging support to your Committee.

The Committee for the coming year remains unchanged, namely: Chairman, Mr Victor Spong; Secretary, Mrs Gwynne Burn; Treasurer, Mr Brian Cordiner; Membership, Mr Chris Mathews; Teesside, Captain Colin Pratt; Uniformed Rep, Lt Cdr Alfie Simpson.

After the meeting, PO Stephen Rumney, acting OiC, gave a brief on the background to Wallsend Unit and its present issues. There was a tour



of the Unit and the evening concluded with 'Evening Colours' when the High Sheriff, and our Deputy Area Chairman (Mrs Liz Chambers), presented awards to the cadets.

## High Sheriff of Tyne and Wear

**J**UST after attending our AGM, the High Sheriff was delighted to go to Gosforth Unit to present its Burgee for 2011, at an evening was also attended by Alex Marsh, a Branch member, who is also a Trustee of the MSSC.

The Unit is back to Burgee standard after a break of some years. Commanding Officer, A/CPO Chris Healy, and Chairman, Chris Bowman, have worked hard to raise the standard in all parts over the last few years and this has finally been rewarded. The



High Sheriff declared that he had been most impressed at the high standards achieved both at Gosforth and at Wallsend; he recognised that this is a result of commitment by the Cadets and the dedication of the adult volunteers.

Gateshead Unit's Chairman, David Byrne, has also asked the High Sheriff to present their Burgee to Commanding Officer, Lesley Somerville, and her team.

## Sunderland Air Show

**T**YNE South District Cadets were on parade for this major local event held towards the end of July. The Area band, which included Cadets from South Shields Unit, made a crowd-drawing march down to the Arena each morning, prior



to the half hour slot given for the Cadet Displays.

At the arena, as well as the band, the crowd were treated to very professional displays of Club Swinging and the Hornpipe by Cadets from Units across Northumberland and Tyne South.



## A&P Tyne Launch

**S**EA Cadets from Tyne South District were invited to provide the naval presence for the launch of a section of the aircraft carrier, HMS Queen Elizabeth, at the A&P Yard in Hebburn.

The section, Centre Block 03, which forms part of the flight deck and hangar, was finished five weeks ahead of schedule and is to be transported to Rosyth where the ship is being assembled.

The last aircraft carrier to be built on the Tyne was HMS Ark Royal—more than 30 years ago!

## Re-opening of Hebburn Unit

**T**S KELLY was devastated by a flood caused by burst pipe during last winter's freeze which led to extensive damage and the closure of the Unit's HQ building.

The Unit was forced into travelling mode, meeting at other venues such as Jarrow and South Shields, Units, while Chairman George Bone and his team set to work to put the building in order.



Colours hoisted at the ceremony



The Mayor of South Tyne is invited by Chairman, George Bone, and Commanding Officer, Lt Paul Patterson, to unveil a commemorative plaque.

It was a very special day when the Unit was finally able to return home to its wholly refurbished Unit.

The occasion was marked by a dedication parade in the presence of the Mayor of South Tyneside, Councillor

James Sewell.

The Unit padre, Rev. Barry Hunt, in re-commissioning the building, recalled that he was present when the building was first opened in 1993.

## Middlesborough Gets a New Standard (and soon a new unit)

**T**HE Lord Lieutenant of North Yorkshire, Lord Crathorne, presented TS Erimus with a new standard in a ceremony attended by the Mayor, Mr Ray Mallon, and a large crowd of parents and service veterans.

During the evening there was a presentation by Martin Humphreys of Middlesborough College, (an ex-Stockton Sea Cadet) on the progress being made in restoring the old East Lodge of Albert Park, which will become the new Unit Head Quarters.



More on this in a later newsletter.

## Royal Visit to Alnwick Castle

**O**N the 22nd June, The Lord Lieutenant of Northumberland, Jane Percy, Duchess of Northumberland, arranged for Her Majesty, The Queen, and The Duke of Edinburgh, to meet some 8,000 local carers and volunteers at her home in Alnwick Castle.



The Queen speaks to RNLI members



The District Officer for Northumberland, Lt Cdr Dave Finlay, is joined with officers from some of his Units.

The Duchess made history over two years ago by becoming the first woman to be given the title of Lord Lieutenant, a ceremonial post that began during the reign of Henry VIII.

Our local Sea Cadets were well represented

with Ashington Unit running the car park, and the Area Band, again with Cadets from South Shields Unit, taking its turn in entertaining the guests.



Air Vice Marshall Sandy Hunter with Mr Victor Spong

## Royal Navy Presentation

**S**OME 70 Branch members and guests attended RMR Tyne for an interesting and entertaining evening with Cdr Allen RN and his team.

The evening was run jointly with The Nautical Institute North East Branch.

The Lord Lieutenant of Tyne & Wear, Mr Nigel Sherlock, was the principal guest with the Sheriff of Newcastle, Cllr Geoff O'Brien, and the Mayor and Mayoress of Gateshead. Cllr and Mrs Mike Hood, were also in attendance.

Chester le Street Sea Cadets provided an excellent buffet and cadets from Ashington and Newcastle East manned the gangway.

The Branch is very grateful to Lt Col Simon Pritchard, CO RMR, for allowing us to use their excellent facilities.



The Royal Navy Presentation Team

## People

**D**URING the re-dedication of Hebburn Unit, **Rev. Barry Hunt** announced his retirement after 18 years as Chaplain. He has served the Unit in many capacities including Chairman over the years. Thank you for all your hard work Barry.



**O**UR Membership Secretary, **Chris Matthews**, has been elected President of Northern Football Club. Apart from his service to the Sea Cadets, Chris has been a stalwart of the Northumberland County Under 20 team, (organiser not player).

**P**ETTY Officer Cadet **Harley Seccombe** of Wallsend Unit represented Northern Area at this year's International Sea Cadet exchange to Vancouver, Canada. POC Seccombe has also served as Lord Lieutenant's cadet.



## YOUNG OFFICERS

**S**TEVEN Grainger, CO of Chester-le-Street, Tracy Peel OIC at Jarrow, and Gemma Thompson Training Officer at Whitley Bay, have passed the Office Selection Board this year and have been appointed Sub Lieutenants, joining Lauren Peters-Jones CO of Newcastle East, who was appointed last year.



Steven Grainger



Gemma Thompson



Tracy Peel

Chris Healy, CO of Gosforth has passed his pre-OSB and we look forward to his joining the officer ranks later this year.

It very encouraging to see the new generation of talented young people making their way to become officers, and we wish them every success.

## OBITUARY

**I**T is with regret that we announce the death of one of our members, Derek Neale. Derek has been involved with the UMC at Chester-le-Street since the 1960s and was a life member of the Sea Cadet Association, the forerunner of the MSSC. We extend our condolences to his family and friends, who will mourn his loss, and give thanks for his long service to the Sea Cadet Corps.

## Sailing Regatta

**T**HE annual sailing regatta took place on 11th September and proved to be a popular event, with three categories: Bosun, Pico, and Topper. As there were more entrants than boats, the Bosun race had to be run in heats, with a final between Newburn, Wallsend, Whitley Bay and Ashington Units, with Wallsend a clear winner and Ashington runner-up. The Pico race was won by Newburn Unit, with Chester-le-Street Unit picking up the trophy for the Topper category.

A number of Branch members accepted an invitation to visit the regatta, having first had a pub lunch at the Skiff. Leading Cadet Harper, of Gosforth Unit, took members afloat in a Champ to give us a close view of the races.



## Summer Ball

**T**HE Sea Cadet Summer Ball was again held at Gateshead Civic Centre, which has proven to be a popular venue for its quality of food, and the facilities on offer.

Dancing was to the live band 'Synergy'. There were two tables of MSSC members and guests this year at an event that is becoming more popular with the Branch.



## MSSC Tyne Tees Branch

**W**E exist to support the three Sea Cadet Districts in the North East: namely Northumberland, which has 7 Units north of the Tyne; Tyne South, which has 6 Units south of the Tyne; and Teesside, which has 5 Units in the Teesside area. The Branch has also taken on the role of funding coordinator for Derwenthaugh, the Regional Boat Station. If you would like to support our work with young people, please contact the Chairman.