

Derwenthaugh Boat Station residential project.

The Branch has taken on the task of coordinating fund raising for an accommodation unit at Derwenthaugh, the regional 'centre of excellence' for boating training. The volunteer team have built up a national reputation for the quality of equipment, facilities and training with some 200 young people using the Boat Station each year.

Recent projects have included installing floating pontoons (with a grant from the People's Millions fund of the National Lottery) and replacement of boats. with the help of grants from charitable trusts.

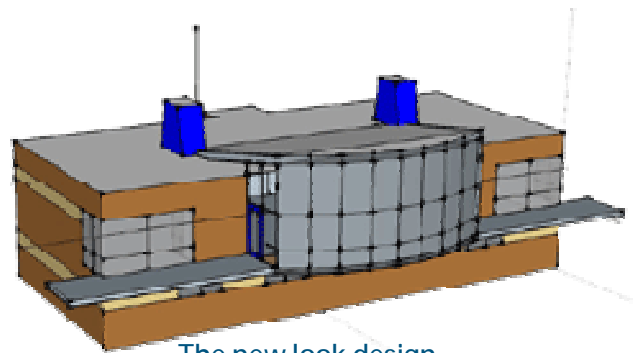
The Derwenthaugh team would now like to offer residential training courses which will increase the boating hours for Tyneside users and also allow use by young people from Teesside. It will also be available for groups outside the current main users – Sea Cadets and Sea Scouts.

We have an exciting new design from Peter Brown of Darbyshire Architects to complement our outstanding riverside location.

We have most of the money needed for the building itself, with only £50,000 needed to complete this stage. We shall then need to find funds for the fitting out stage much of which will be done by our volunteer team.

This is a challenging but exciting project that will deliver a prestigious training centre for young people in the North East.

If you are able to help with funding or would like to be involved in fitting out please let Vic Spong or Alfie Simpson know.



The new look design

Trinity 500 Delivery and Launching

The long awaited new design pulling (rowing) boats were finally delivered to us after the close of the main boating season.

Our photograph shows two of the six boats being unloaded from the trailer.



The boats will be distributed across the region over the winter, to be in use next season. They will be a great benefit over the current

heavyweight ASC design that has been the backbone of the Corps for nearly 50 years.

These new boats will greatly enhance rowing in the Sea Cadets and the Branch is very grateful to the support of several charitable trusts, together with the Nautical Institute North East.

Launch events are planned as follows:

Chester-le-Street:

Saturday, 19th March at 1200 hours, Lord Lieutenant of Durham (Sir Paul Nicholson) will preside. Followed by a buffet lunch.

Derwenthaugh Boat Station:

Sunday, 17 April at 1500 hours, Commodore Baum will preside. Followed by tea.

Hartlepool: Information to follow when the details have been finalised.

Sunderland Trafalgar Memorial

As part of the Collingwood 2010 celebrations, a memorial was installed at the Sunderland Aged Seaman's home to honour the local seamen who died at the Battle of Trafalgar.

The President, Captain John Murray, outlined the events and invited the Lord Lieutenant of Tyne & Wear, Mr Nigel Sherlock, to unveil the memorial.

There was an impressive turnout of Royal and Merchant Navy personnel, past and present, to mark the occasion.

Sea Cadets from North Shields and Hebburn Units attended to assist.



VIP Sea Day

The Branch Chairman, Vic Spong, represented the MSSC at a Royal Navy VIP Sea Day held in Portsmouth.



The guests were taken aboard one of the group of warships for a tour of all departments in their active role.

The highlight was a demonstration of some truly impressive weaponry.

Vic was relieved to find that he still had his sea legs as the sea state increased after lunch.

Derwenthaugh Informal Visit

As the Trinity 500 rowing boats were delivered too late for a launch event, Branch members were invited to attend an informal day at the Boat Station whilst the last qualifying course for the season was being run.

The guests had an opportunity to see first hand the quality of the training carried out at the Boat Station.

They also were given the chance to try their hand in both types of power boat, the displacement (chuggies) Chevington Champs, and the planing boats (whizzies), the Sea Rider and the Zodiac.



Annual General Meeting

The AGM was held at Chester-le-Street Sea Cadet Unit. The officers for the ensuing year are:

Chairman, Victor Spong; Secretary, Gwynne Burn; Treasurer, Brian Cordiner; Membership, Chris Matthews.

The Chairman thanked Lindsay Miller, the retiring Treasurer, for his work for the Branch since it was formed. Lindsay continues on the Committee.

Members were briefed on the Unit by the CO and taken on a tour of the impressive facilities.

There followed a very interesting presentation by PO Karina Pringle of her visit to India, as part of the Sea Cadet team attending the International Sea Cadet Regatta in Mumbai. The Branch had awarded Karina a bursary towards her expenses.

Afterwards, the Unit provided a very impressive buffet that was enjoyed by all.



Chester-le-Street Unit

Visit to TVLB—15th February

The Tynemouth Voluntary Life Brigade opened their doors to participating Branch members on a cold, windy and rainy night.

We were given a tour of the watch house, as well as an insight into the intensive training that takes place.



As we stood in one of the towers as the wind buffeted the building, and the rain lashed down, it wasn't hard to imagine the terrors that could befall the unwary at sea.

Established in 1864 to help the HM Coastguard to save lives from shipwrecks, they continue today to work closely with the RNLI, participating in cliff rescue, breeches buoy rescue and coastal search/rescue.

Afterwards we warmed our chilled bones with a bar meal at a local establishment.

Everyone agreed it was a most interesting social occasion.

More events for your diary can be found on the back page of this publication.

Commodore S R Baum, Royal Navy

The new Regional Naval Commander (North of England) is a submariner by trade. His naval career includes the command of nuclear Trafalgar class submarines and helping with the development of the new 'Astute' class. As a former sea cadet we expect that he will be taking a keen interest in sea cadet activities in our region.



Welcome aboard Dickie!

The key role of the Tyne Tees Branch is to support the Sea Cadets in the North East. Our readers might be interested in remarks made by Commodore Baum (himself an ex Sea Cadet) at the Sea Cadet Mess Dinner.

Social Implications of the Sea Cadets

The Sea Cadets are one of the UK's largest and most successful youth organisations. It has a long history of preparing young people from all walks of life for an active involvement in local communities. It encourages valuable personal attributes, helps build life skills and—using maritime themes based upon the culture and ethos of the Royal Navy—fosters confidence, self-reliance, initiative, loyalty and a sense of service to others. It has a committed and selfless leadership of adult volunteers that deliver:

- A rich activity package
- The opportunity to gain qualifications
- Respect for authority, other people and high levels of self-esteem
- The Cadets are likely to become committed citizens and have heightened aspirations compared to their peers.

There is plenty of evidence that the provision of structured, supervised activities diverts at-risk young people away from less desirable occupations and instils in them a set of normative values. Cadet organisations are excellent preparation for adult life, and a strong antidote to the prevailing negative stereotypes of today's youth.

Sea Cadet Mess Dinner

Branch members joined the staff of Tyneside Sea Cadet Units at RMR Tyne for their annual Mess Dinner.

The President was Lt Cdr (SCC) Alfie Simpson, RNR, and the Principal Guest was Commodore Richard Baum, RN, the Regional Naval Commander. (see above)

The President's strict application of his version of 'mess rules' ensured a thoroughly entertaining evening for all, and by all.

CPO (SCC) Chris Healy

Sir Neville Trotter (President of Gosforth Unit) presented the Sea Cadet Corps' Certificate of Appreciation to CPO (SCC) Chris Healy, CO of Gosforth Unit, for his services to the Corps over many years.

Chris has been a member of Gosforth Unit man and boy, joining as a cadet in 1992, and has been CO for the last five years.

He was chosen to be the escorting officer for the UK Sea Cadet party to visit Russia as part of the 2010 International Sea Cadet exchange programme.



International Sea Cadet Exchange Programme 2010

As well as CPO Healy doing duty as an escorting officer in Russia, two North East Cadets were also involved in this year's programme.

Petty Officer Cadet Karina Pringle of Ashington Unit was selected to represent UK Sea Cadets at the International Sea Cadet Regatta in Mumbai.

Karina learned her sailing at Derwenthaugh where she qualified as an RYA instructor.

Karina is now a member of staff at Ashington.

Leading Cadet Jacob Cole of Gosforth Unit was chosen to join the UK Sea Cadet party to go to Hong Kong.



Jacob later passed the examination and has been promoted to Petty Officer Cadet.

The International exchanges give our cadets a unique opportunity to travel to all parts of the world at very little cost.

We are pleased that Cadets from our region are taking advantage of the programme.

Commander Ed McNaught RNR and Commander Andy Collier RNR

Branch member Ed McNaught moves on from his role as CO of HMS Calliope to become Chief of Staff for Naval Reserves in the North of England. Congratulations Ed, and thank you for your support; we are sure that we shall be seeing you 'around the bazaars'.



Ed's replacement at Calliope is Commander Andy Collier, who is also a Branch member and former RN Staff Officer at Calliope.

Congratulations Andy, and we look forward to seeing more of you.



The transfer of command was marked by a zip wire transfer from the Tyne Bridge to Calliope, which raised over £1,000 for Marie Curie.

Royal Navy Parade— Chester-le-Street

The Branch was proud to have a representation at the Royal Navy Parade at Chester-le-Street. The Unit were a credit to Sea Cadets in the North East and were once again awarded a pennant for their outstanding performance during the past year.

The Cadets put on a shadow play in front of local dignitaries representing the bravery of Donald Owen Clarke after whom the Unit takes its Training Ship name.



District Officer Lt Cdr Alfie Simpson said "TS Donald Owen Clarke put on an impressive inspection and the Area Officer, Cdr Mark Buchan-Steele was suitably impressed." "I'm sure that the Unit will be well rewarded for

the amount of time and effort that has been put in by the Commanding Officer and his team."

Many congratulations to all involved.

Sea Cadets visit to the Royal Naval Reserve

The team at HMS Calliope has offered the opportunity for local Sea Cadets to visit the unit on Saturday, 16th April. Whilst the Sea Cadets is not a recruiting vehicle for the Royal Navy, many cadets obviously have an interest in a maritime career and join with the RN or the Merchant Navy. There are also cadets who decide that staying on is not for them and have no desire to go to sea as a career. For this last group, the Royal Naval Reserve may offer a 'third way' to stay in uniform. Reservists attend HMS Calliope one evening per week and some weekends, sometimes going away to train with the Royal Navy.



Over the weekend 16/17 April, 2011, Reservists from across the North of England and Scotland take part in a series of drill and evolutions aimed at developing leadership, fostering team spirit, and improving operational training standards. The Sea Cadets have been invited to attend the Saturday event.

For details and joining instructions, Unit COs should contact: Lt Cdr Pauline Jones, RD RNR, Senior Recruiting Officer. Telephone: 0191 4909600, email calliope-recruitingofficer@mod.uk. Further info on the website at www.royalnavy.mod.uk/rnr

Forthcoming Events

Below are some of the events for your calendar:

Saturday, 19 March. Launch of Trinity 500 rowing boats. Chester-le-Street Unit, 1145, Dress—jacket and tie.

Saturday, 26 March. Members and guests supper cooked by cadets on the Cook Steward Course, Gateshead Unit, 1900. Cost £20 per person. Dress—Smart Casual.

Sunday, 17 April. Launch of Trinity 500 rowing boats. Derwenthaugh Boat Station. 1445. Dress—Jacket and tie.

Wednesday, 18 May. Royal Navy Presentation Team, RMR Tyne, 1845. A joint meeting with the Nautical Institute.

Saturday, 2nd July. Sea Cadet Summer Ball, Gateshead Civic Centre, Bewick Suite, with a live band (Synergy). 1900.

Dress—Gents black tie, ladies, evening wear. Cost £30 per person.