



**City of London Sea Cadet Corps
Annual Report
December 2021**



AHOY THERE!

The purpose of this report is to thank everyone who supports the Unit; this comes in forms almost too varied to list. The most obvious support is the direct financial support that we receive from a wonderful array of institutions, both commercial and philanthropic. Also important are those businesses that allow the Unit to raise funds on their premises by means of activities such as bag packing and raffles, where it is very pleasing to see the cadets playing their part in raising money for the Unit. Such income streams not only enable the Unit to pay for day to day running costs (unit accommodation, insurance, fuel, teaching materials and umpteen other things) but also to offer subsidised activities such as boat work training, Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) Award expeditions and our, now traditional, week

cruising the beautiful Norfolk Broads. All our activities are designed to help our cadets learn a large range of skills. In addition, your generosity allows the Unit to purchase necessary large items from time-to-time.

At the time of writing the Unit has 24 cadets, aged from 10 to 18. The cadets are taught by a volunteer team of dedicated

staff as well as supported by a wide range of people, the principle among whom is our Unit Management Team. The Unit traditionally meets twice a week (Tuesdays and Fridays 1930-2130) on the ex-Royal Navy cruiser HMS Belfast, now part of the Imperial War Museum. The majority of our cadets are drawn from the "City Fringe" boroughs of Islington, Camden, Tower Hamlets and Southwark.

Cadet'ing during COVID

These past two years, as for all of you has been a little different for City of London Sea Cadets. With the spread of the COVID 19 pandemic and the country entering lockdown all Sea Cadet activities were stopped and remained suspended for much of 2020, with restrictions easing slightly in the summer 2020 before locking down again. Since coming out of lockdown 2, activities have remained limited for much of this year.

We quickly began delivering some of our cadet activities virtually and we managed to deliver a wide variety of activities online with some success. This was somewhat trial and error and we



Ship's company on the Quarter deck of HMS Belfast following Remembrance Sunday Ceremonies 2021. It's good to be back aboard and representing the unit at these important events.



After a long pause we were finally able to get back to what we do best. Boating with cadets here at the Sea Cadets Royal Docks boat station.

were limited by what was available to cadets in their own homes. We managed Meteorology and covered modules for cadets' promotions which culminated in 2 of our ordinary cadets becoming able cadets. We managed to send some training material to cadets so we can deliver seamanship and started a monthly physical training session to keep everyone fit and active. Cadets also worked through an RYA Seamanship and Navigation course online with some distance support from CPO Townsend. Our virtual training was boosted by a range of guest speakers including the head of HMS Belfast, the Royal Navy outreach team and even our own chairman teaching the cadets about the Merchant Navy. Virtual training has also been delivered to cadets at district and area level with our staff assisting to deliver this. One of our cadets had the opportunity to attend a national virtual aviation course where they learnt the theory of flying and all about the Fleet Air Arm.

During this time, we were working towards getting back to face-to-face training in a Covid safe manner. When lockdown eased in the summer of 2020 the Sea Cadet Corps did allow some face to face cadet activities with strict Covid secure procedures. During this time London area ran a range of boating courses at Royal Docks where our cadets were able to take part in rowing and paddle sports, making use of our Trinity 500 boats made possible by your generosity.

Activities

Once we came out of lockdown 2 in spring 2021, return to parading on board HMS Belfast was not immediately possible as the Imperial War Museum took the opportunity to close HMS Belfast to the public to undertake essential maintenance. We were able to arrange a return to outdoor activity permission from the Sea Cadets first allowing us to undertake some limited training at weekends outside. While waiting

for HMS Belfast we were kindly hosted by the Saint Michael Paternoster Royal Church who we are extremely grateful for their assistance and we were able to start parading again inside in spring 2021. Shortly after this we were allowed to commence boating again and we spent Tuesday evenings at the Sea Cadets' Royal Docks Boat station where cadets were able to row and sail. During this period the cadets clocked up a huge number of hours boating and a good haul of badges and qualifications. We were also finally able to return home to HMS Belfast in July 2021.



HMS Belfast with HMS Severn alongside. One of the first activities possible once we were back on board HMS Belfast was a ship's visit.



Beans and sausages are on the menu cooked by Cadet Agnes on a very damp Bronze Duke of Edinburgh expedition in the Kent

Covid led to considerably less activity than in any normal year. Our cadet numbers have dropped; cadets struggle with Zoom parade nights, especially after a full day of online lessons with school and missed out on significant amounts of boating and other in-person activities while some cadets have aged out. We have taken on quite a few new joiners with plans for another recruitment session in the New Year to bring our numbers back up to pre COVID levels. As well as boating we have managed to get some cadets through their Duke of Edinburgh awards and have taken cadets climbing and mountain biking. The last restriction in place was preventing cadets from staying overnight which limited any large camps and activities further afield but this has recently been lifted. District competitions have recently started up again with City cadets taking part in the district five a side football competition in the next few weeks. Next year we hope to meet for district multi training as well as undertake city of London's now famous Norfolk Broads trip at Easter and camping in the New Forest in May. The relaxation of restrictions have now made sea cadet offshore voyages possible as well from next year and we have cadets booked on the sailing ship TS Royalist, the power vessels John Jerwood and Jack Petchey and the sea cadets yachts.



PO Zanardelli and PO Fynn, two of our Cadet force adult volunteers aboard the training ship Jack Petchey on a visit with our cadets in October.

Staff

Much of the teaching of cadets falls to a small cadre of Sea Cadet adult volunteers. Chief Petty Officer Paul Townsend handed over as Commanding Officer in April 2020 to Sub Lt (RNR) Eli Mowbray who was then unfortunately only able to be CO for just a short period of time. Paul had previously been our CO for many years and had been holding the fort for us as CO again while Eli prepared for the role. Paul stays on as a key member of the Unit's staff and will continue to share his wealth of knowledge with the cadets. PO McDonald took over as temporary Executive Officer and then temporary Officer in Command (OIC) while a replacement is sought. PO Randall continues as our Training Officer and has largely been responsible for adapting the training plan and grappling with the technology required to deliver training virtually. PO Fynn and Mrs Wing who had only recently joined us pre Covid have now settled in well to the Unit and have been of great value in delivering virtual training, (Mrs Wing had originally only agreed to help out with the admin!) and one of the parents Mrs Green has agreed to come on board and help run the clothing stores. PO Fynn is a sailing instructor and was responsible for delivering much of the summer's water borne training alongside PO Randall our Rowing Instructor and CPO Townsend our powerboating instructor. PO Fynn will also take on the role of boating officer for the 2022 boating season. PO Zanardelli has also joined us being until recently a cadet at the unit, she decided to stay on as staff and has already qualified as a seamanship instructor.

Management

In collaboration with the Unit's staff, the Unit Management Team (UMT) led by our hard-working Chairman John L David, with support from the Parents' and Supporters' Association (PASA), strive to provide the best possible start in life for the young people in our part-time care. We are responsible for running the unit at a strategic and management level. The UMT, all volunteers are also Trustees of the charity. UMT Members also participate at District and Area levels and have recently contributed to work by MSSC on future training packages for Trustees of the future.

The UMT are extremely grateful to both the Staff and the Cadets for their loyal support during difficult times. The pandemic has been a difficult time for the Unit, not least because our home of HMS Belfast was closed for over a year. Once return to parading was approved by MSSC HQ, we were able to secure a place for cadets to meet at St Michaels Paternoster Royal's facilities in the City of London. This proved a wonderful temporary home for us, and we are very grateful to the Diocese of London for their help.

It is thanks to the donations and assistance we receive from you, our supporters, that we were able to keep the Unit's ongoing outgoings paid during lockdown, and to connect with our cadets virtually. Thank you!

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