



City of London Sea Cadet Corps

Annual Report

May 2024



AHOY THERE!

The purpose of this report, timed for the end of our financial year, is to thank everyone who supports the Unit; this support comes in forms almost too varied to list. The most obvious is the direct financial support that we receive from a wonderful array of institutions, both commercial and philanthropic. Your donations 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.

Ships' Company on the Boat deck for our recent Royal Naval inspection with the inspecting officer Cmdr Nisbet



At the time of writing the Unit has 45 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 principal 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.

Activities

Cadets getting a dress inspection at the recent District Drill Competition.



After a few challenging years getting the Unit up and running again post Covid, taking on new cadets and new cadet force adult volunteers to develop them, it seems to have all come together this year. It has been hugely productive and successful with a growing ships' company who have got up to some truly remarkable feats: gaining badges and promotions, representing the Unit at a wide range of cadet competitions as well as in the wider City and community. Every two years the unit gets a Royal Naval inspection from the Sea Cadet London Area Officer, a serving Royal Naval Commander, to make sure we are up to standard. Cmdr Nisbet visited us last June, awarding scores for multiple aspects of our activities. The resulting combined score was the highest we have ever had, as well as the highest of any unit in London Northern District. For this, we received a Commendation from the

Captain of Sea Cadets.

Our cadets totalled on average more than 50 hours boating each this year, gaining 87 boating qualifications in the process! 13 cadets went offshore on one of the Sea Cadets' fleet of sailing and power vessels, and cadets gained some of the highest qualifications possible in skills such as seamanship and sailing.

The sea cadet year is marked by a range of inter cadet competition initially at District level, between all the London Northern District units, and then at London Area level. If successful, we have the honour of participating in a Sea Cadet National Competition. This year, CoLSCC enjoyed considerable success in football with our Juniors coming 2nd at District level and our Under15 boys winning the District and going on to win the Area Competition. We then had cadets through to Area in powerboat handling and paddle sports as well as Nationals in rowing and sailing. More recently we did very well at first aid and entered teams into the drill and piping competition, winning the District competition.

As well as competition we embarked on our annual Norfolk Broads trip during the Easter holidays (and at the time of writing are preparing for the 2024 trip). Hiring 4 boats for a week's cruising from Stalham to Great Yarmouth and back, the boats are crewed by 30 cadets who cook, clean, steer the boats and have considerable fun as well as practising paddlesports and learning seamanship skills in the evenings. We undertook our annual camping trip to the New Forest where we also took part in the Annual HMS Hood Commemoration Service at Boldre Church. Other cadets completed their Bronze and Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award expeditions. Through our continued support for the service at Boldre we were also able to form links with the HMS Hood Association who invited us to a weekend in Portsmouth where we were able to visit the museums and join them in a parade through the dockyard.

Adventure Training is a firm favourite of the Commanding Officer. No surprise then that cadets have been rock climbing and mountain biking as well as heading to Dartmoor for Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award expeditions. This resulted in our cadets gaining their advanced hillwalking badge, a first in London Area. On the subject of Duke of Edinburgh Awards, one of our cadets is weeks away from completing her Gold which is yet another first for the unit.

Naturally, some more traditional sea cadet activities are undertaken by the Unit and in the lighter evenings from May to August we meet at the Sea Cadet Boat Station at the Royal Docks on Tuesday evenings and get out on the water. This is alongside weekend activities and District and Area courses at the Sea Cadet Boating stations at Royal Docks and Welsh Harp.

Cadets preparing for a fire fighting exercise kindly organised by the Royal Naval engagement team on board HMS Belfast.



Cadets travelled to Weymouth with the District, and in the summer, the cadets were away on the London Area Summer Camp at Pirbright undertaking seamanship, first aid, navigation and campcraft as well as other activities such as theme parks.

The Autumn sees the unit get involved in lots of ceremonial activities with cadets representing the unit: The Annual National Service for Seafarers at St Paul's, several carpet guards for some of our Livery and other City supporters, the Lord Mayor's Show, and our Remembrance Service on the quarterdeck of HMS Belfast. Agnes Squires was appointed Lord Mayor's Cadet this year and she looks forward to her term supporting the Rt Hon. The Lord Mayor, Alderman Professor Michael Raymond Mainelli at events throughout the year.

December saw a cadet Prize Giving evening on board HMS Belfast, where our guest Carol Howell the Director General of the Imperial War Museum

kindly presented many of the awards.

Staff



Our CFAV have been upskilling on the water as well as on land. Here we have PO Pucilowski and PO Perez gaining qualifications in rowing and Sailing while CI Lewis, PO Fynn and Sub Lt McDonald on the same weekend were maintaining their continued professional development in their hillwalking qualifications.

Much of the teaching of cadets falls to a small cadre of Sea Cadet adult volunteers who give up significant amount of time to support our cadets. We are building a strong team at CoLSCC who not only deliver evening and weekend training to our cadets but contribute to cadet training across London Northern District, the wider London Area and to sea cadets nationally.

Sub Lt McDonald continues as Officer in Command with CPO Townsend as 1st Lieutenant. Last year we gained two paddlesport instructors that have put their new qualifications to good use this year. PO Sousa and PO Hollingworth, both recent

ex sea cadets from other units have joined us this year, making excellent starts and a positive impact to the unit. PO Sousa is very keen on drill and ceremonial and has already improved standards around the unit; she hopes to train the cadets to they put up a strong show at forthcoming Drill Competitions. PO Hollingworth has taught our Juniors some music and is hoping to start delivering some band training; we have just purchased some band equipment; we'll report back on these activities in our next report! In the interim, do look at our [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) Accounts We also have a range of flexible volunteers who, due to their employment are not always able to deliver training during the evenings, or have particular areas of interests. They have contributed to our cadets gaining powerboating and mountain biking qualifications. We mustn't forget Unit Assistants who are often parents and other supporters who give their time to undertake small tasks around the unit.

Management

In collaboration with the Unit's staff, the Unit Management Team (UMT), with support from an increasingly active Parents' and Supporters' Association (PASA), strive to provide the best possible start in life for the young people in our part-time care. The UMT is responsible for running the unit at a strategic and management level. The UMT, all volunteers, are also Trustees of the charity and responsible for ensuring the appropriate Charity Commission requirements are met. For those readers who don't know, all Sea Cadet Units are run as individual charities under the governing charity [Marine Society & Sea Cadets](#).

UMT Members also participate at District and Area levels and liaise with staff at London Area to ensure compliance with the appropriate guidelines and training. Following the retirement of our Chairman Captain John L David, (who served the Unit and wider Area for many years) his successor Daniel Wells (a fellow Shipwright) has settled into the role and leads the UMT efficiently and effectively. Dan's colleague Alex Jonesco supports him as Vice Chair, together with long-standing Secretary Jon Steer and Treasurer Chloë Andrews-Jones, the four principal officers of the UMT.

**IN CLOSING, THE STAFF, THE UMT AND – MOST IMPORTANTLY – THE CADETS, THANK YOU
FOR YOUR CONTINUING SUPPORT OF OUR UNIT. WE ARE ALL VERY GRATEFUL.**

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