

IN OTTER NEWS

FEBRUARY 2025

Issue 2

email: newsletter@tsotter.org

And We're Off (Shore!)



Unit News!

There was a very busy Divisions on January 29th 2025 so huge congratulations to the following:

NECs **Katie**, **Louie** and **Kelsey** were all enrolled into the **TS Otter** senior section.

Mental Health First Aid awards were given to **PO Newbury**, **CPO Harper**, **PO Bailey**, **PO Gregory**.

A Certificate of Recognition for six years of service to the Sea Cadets was presented to **Lt Harrison**.

A well-deserved two-year good conduct stripe was awarded to **CFC David**.

BZ to all!

And the offshore season has begun in earnest with the following cadets who are heading out to sea in March. Cadets **Ella** and **Sophie** will sail on **TS Jack Petchey**, at Gosport; while Able Cadet **Fin**, Cadets **Katie** and **Louie**, will sail on **TS John Jerwood** from Gosport to Poole.

Exciting times! We can't wait to hear your stories when you all come back!

COMPETITION TIME!!!

Are you up for a **challenge**?

We need a new mascot created for the newsletter and to use on the unit website.

Do you have the skills to **draw** a new **TS Otter** mascot? Can you claim the grand prize?

Entries can be accepted from **all** cadets, juniors and seniors. Your design must be:

- **Family Friendly**
- **related to the Sea Cadets/ Royal Navy**
- **must involve an Otter.**

The winning entry will be chosen by our judges: **PO Newbury, Lt Harrison and Lt Matthews.**

The winner will get a **£10 Amazon gift certificate** and a free item from the stand-easy box. The best two runners-up will also get a free item from the stand-easy box.

Think **you** can do it?

All entries **must** have your name on them and are to be given to **PO Newbury** or emailed to **newsletter@tsotter.org**

Closing date: **Monday 31st March 2025.**

A Word from the Commanding Officer.

As we approach the boating season, I would like to start by saying a massive **“Bravo Zulu” (Well done!)** to our **Juniors** and **New Entry** Cadets who recently passed their swim and water safety tests! A big thank you to **Tewkesbury Leisure Centre**, which kindly let us use its facilities free of charge.

Another thank you is to our **UMT** for putting on a successful burger and chips evening. The money raised has contributed to the purchase of new first aid kits for our safety boats.

Looking forward to March, we have some exciting opportunities coming up, with some cadets heading offshore - best of luck to those going away!

In just two weeks, we also have our drill team competing in the Armed Squad division at **HMS Raleigh** as part of the South West Area Drill & Piping Competition so best of luck to those competing and I look forward to sharing the results with you shortly!

Training Dates Ahead For March

MACT = Multi Activity Cadet Training

TCSC = Tewkesbury Cruising and Sailing Club

- Area Drill and Piping competition, **HMS Raleigh**, March 7-9th (Drill team)
- SW Area MACT 14-16th March (for cadets who have been accepted)

Random Navy Fact:

The **Ark Raleigh** was originally ordered and built by **Sir Walter Raleigh**, but in **1587** the ship was purchased by **Queen Elizabeth I** for the sum of £5000, or the equivalent to £1.4 million today. The ship was renamed the **Ark Royal** and became the first of five **Ark Royals** that have served the **Royal Navy** since. The last **HMS Ark Royal** was an aircraft carrier that was decommissioned in **2011**.