

# Colchester Sea Cadets

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T.S. Colne Light

## NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 08

### Ahoy Shipmates

Other than the Christmas edition this is the last newsletter of the year so it's a good opportunity to summarise on all the events that have happened.

Firstly let's help with some of the Nautical terminology that is used in the newsletters.

Ranks & rates as an example.

C/O – Commanding Officer

CPO – Chief Petty Officer

PO – Petty Officer

LC – Leading Cadet

AB – Able Cadet

OC – Ordinary Cadet

Cdt – Cadet

NE – New Entry

Jnr – Junior Cadet

TI – Trainee Instructor

CI – Civilian Instructor

TS – Training Ship

RYA – Royal Yachting Assoc.

Hopefully that's helped a little for you to understand some of the abbreviations.

### *Royal Naval Pennant Awarded.*

Following the Royal Navy inspection conducted by the Sea Cadet Area Officer, where the Cadets demonstrate the skills that have been learnt over the past year, the Unit was awarded a SCC Pennant 2008. This is a major achievement for any Sea Cadet Unit, as it demonstrates the hard work & effort that is put in by Staff & Cadets over the past year. The award is a proud moment for all.

### *Long Service Award*

Whilst we're on the subject of awards, CPO Paul Pearce has received a medal for 12 years of continuous service to the SCC. CPO Bill Price has received well deserved recognition for 27 years of service to the Corps.

I'm sure you agree, it's an absolutely fantastic achievement. The Ships Company thank them for their service, dedication & commitment. We take our hats off to them both.

### *Congratulations*

### *Jack Petchey Award*

Jack Petchey is a multi-millionaire who pumps a large percentage of his money into youth based organisations. Each month a Cadet is nominated & their name put forward to the JP foundation for award. This time around OC Laura Kemp was nominated & was presented with a personal certificate of achievement & a cheque for £300 for which she can nominate how the monies will be spent in the unit.

*Well done Laura!*

### *First Aid*

Twice this year, PO Keith Winslade has run a first aid course on board the Lightship over a weekend. First Aid is a cadet specialisation to which all are encouraged. The 1<sup>st</sup> weekend saw 6 cadets qualify to 3<sup>rd</sup> Class. The next weekend held in July was for 2<sup>nd</sup> class level. LC Niall Butcher, OC Laura Kemp, OC Toni Andrews & OC Josh Richard all qualified to this level.

**An excellent achievement.**

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### *Meet the Navy*

In July a group of Cadets, escorted by Officers & Staff of the Lightship took a trip to Portsmouth dockyard.

As well as other ships of the Navy, HMS Illustrious was in dock. The aircraft carrier is the affiliated ship of TS Colne Light, so naturally the Cadets were treated to a guided tour around the vessel.

All in all a fun day & a good time was had by all.

### *Summer Camp*

Each year a summer camp is organised for the Cadets by the District Officer.

4 cadets met with others from the district, for the long haul up to Buxton.

Events such as climbing, pot holing, camping, walking & shooting were interspersed with trips to Alton Towers & other fun attractions.

They all returned safely. Exhausted but with big smiles.

Look out for next year's summer camp details. The cadets have a great time.

### *Water sports*

Naturally waterborne activities are a major part of Sea Cadet training and there are competitions to test the Cadets' abilities. OC Dan Mitchell stepped up to the challenge taking Gold at District level in the Junior canoeing section. Another trip to Royal Victoria docks & Dan represented Essex at area level. Success! - so we shipped Dan again to represent London area at regional level. He was up there with the best.

A young man who can hold his head up high with pride & show other cadets that winning is possible.

### *On the Water (and in it)*

Six Cadets took part in the RYA young sailing scheme at Victoria Docks over a 2 day period. The weather whilst warm didn't produce much wind so there was lots of capsizing practice.

Jnr George Davis, Jnr Katie Pratchett, Cdt Emma Arrowsmith, OC Ashley Foster & OC Steven Blowers all achieved their 1<sup>st</sup> sailing qualification.

### *Foreign waters*

For all his hard work & effort over the past couple of years at TS Rebel (Offshore sailing school), LC Josh Syrett was selected to crew TS Royalist (the SCC square rigged training ship) in the second leg of the Tall Ships race. This leg saw Josh crew the vessel with other cadets from Maloy to Burgen in Norway.

What a lovely, once in a lifetime experience.

**An honour for Colchester to have a cadet representing at such a prestigious race.**

### *Riding the waves*

LC Josh Syrett & AB Glenn Arrowsmith have been presented with the "Coxswains Badge" This is a very special award for which the lads have completed over 300hrs of waterborne activities on a variety of craft. Power, offshore & keelboat.

An award that is not presented lightly. Both the CO of the Unit & of TS Rebel were in consultation to ensure both cadets had met the full criteria.

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### *Marching onwards & upwards*

TS Colne Light Corps of Drums are beating their way from strength to strength. Each Saturday an increasing number of Cadets meet at the ship for sessions of band practice. Under the careful guidance of PO Richard Lancaster assisted by CPO Sharon Smith, the band have represented the unit at a number of public events. Mersea & Witham Carnival, Basildon Sea Sunday parade to name a few.

From each event the feedback is always encouraging & is being followed by invitations to perform at more & more functions.

Wearing full No.1 uniform & carrying a well presented instrument the Band are certainly a credit to Colchester Sea Cadets.

### *Shackle & Spike*

The latest event that Colchester has entered is the District Seamanship competition.

Whilst OC Laura Kemp, OC Dan Mitchell, OC Steven Blowers & OC Charlie "Chunk" Adams had been practicing hard tying knots, down in the bow of the ship, they entered the competition very much the underdogs.

These Cadets gave their very best & were rewarded with 1<sup>st</sup> place.

This has not been achieved by Colchester SCC since 1995.

TS Colne Light is certainly making a good name for themselves in the District.

### *Hythe Heritage*

The Hythe Heritage Day on September 12<sup>th</sup> is very important for the Lightship, as it raises awareness and helps with boasting funds. This year was a very successful fundraising event for the Unit. There were over 500 recorded visitors onboard who enjoyed guided tours around the ship by the Cadets. We raised a very valuable sum of approx £1100 for funds & had great support from the UMC, Staff, Cadets & some parents whose help was very much appreciated.

A special thanks to CPO Paul Pearce who played a major role in the day's organisation

