

WHAT'S OCCURRING

Jan-Feb 2010—Issue 4

Email PO@TSECHO.ORG.UK with any stories

CROSSING THE LINE CEREMONY

On the 22nd Jan 2010 Llanelli Sea Cadets Junior Section arranged for a crossing the line ceremony to take place at T.S.ECHO.

Many people from Llanelli were invited, and on the night the Town Mayor, his Deputies and consort, the Rural Council Leaders and Carmarthenshire council leaders all attended the event.

This however, was no ordinary event. For the staff at

T.S.ECHO were planning a surprise event, where Lt (SCC) P Killick (RNR) was to be presented with gifts of appreciation for his 19 years in command.



PO Jenkins and Lt Killick get a bit wet!!

The event, rather than the traditional crossing of the equator, was planned instead to show the crossing of the line of

Command. With Lt (SCC) P Killick (RNR) standing down last June and PPO (SCC) L Jenkins taking command.

The event saw the two eating

raw onions, spicy kidney beans, mixed sauces, being egged, mock shaved and then buckets of water thrown over them.

The night was a great success and the Town Mayor, Rural Council and County Council all presented gifts to Lt Killick, and also promised their support to Llanelli for the years to come. They also commented on how unique an event this was and how it was great to be a part of it.

The Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Dyfed, and Unit President Lt Col David Mathias thanked Lt Killick for his work and pledged his support for the future of T.S.ECHO.

SWIM THE CHANNEL

The Cadets and Junior Section of T.S.ECHO invited their shipmates from Port Talbot - T.S.Resource down to Llanelli Leisure Centre on the 31st January 2010 to attempt to complete a swim the channel event.

The groups assembled at 12:00 and started their first lengths shortly afterwards. Well before their target of 15:00 the Cadets and some staff had completed a total of 1404 lengths and completed the challenge.

The cadets had earned some playtime and the staff at the leisure centre set up an inflatable assault course, where the cadets, and staff all enjoyed attempting (mostly failing) the course!

Fundraising News:

- The swim the channel event has raised over £250 for the unit, with funds still coming in
- A duck race is to be held in Carmarthen and Llanelli this year
- The local Round table will be running a raft race event with the unit at North Dock this year
- Battlefield Live event
- And more!

Whats in here?

- This Newsletter includes important dates
- Information on the Duke Of Edinburgh Scheme at T.S.ECHO
- Meet the staff
- Details of the Unit Review
- Update on the trinity boat!

TRINITY 500 BOAT UPDATE

After several months of waiting for news on the Trinity 500 boat, HQ has finally sent a request for payment of the boat.

This means that the first batch could arrive by April, just in time for our boating season!

What's more, the boat may even be reduced to £1250, half the estimated price, which will allow us to purchase all the essential items that we need!

As you may already know the boat has been on the cards for a while now, and following a successful grant bid from CAVS the unit received funds to purchase one.

The boat will be a smaller version of the ASC that we currently have, but will not offer the sailing like the ASC can.

The boat has been designed with

young children in mind, offering a safer craft, which needs much less effort to row than the current boat.

As you can see by the picture below the boat will be a great advert for the Sea Cadets, and will serve T.S.Echo for many years to come!

Once the boat arrives at T.S.Echo we will trial it with the cadets, and our



The prototype of the Trinity 500

brand new power boat.

This leaves T.S.Echo with a great fleet of boats for the season, and should offer excellent training and enjoyment for our cadets throughout the season.

There is also a planned unit weekend at the new Boating facility at Weymouth in April, with Neath Sea Cadets, which will be an ideal opportunity for staff and cadets to qualify in various waterborne activities.

ROUND TABLE AGREE TO SUPPORT DUKE OF EDINBURGH

PO P Jenkins recently approached the Round Table in Llanelli to ask for assistance in planning a Raft Race, and came away with a surprise offer for funding with regard to our Duke Of Edinburgh groups this year.

So far the 5 cadets have begun their preparations for the walks and wish to plan one practice

"We definitely want to help with the Duke Of Edinburgh as I did mine over 30 years ago, it taught me a lot" Roger Bowen

walk at the Gower, and the main expedition on the Black Mountains.

Roger Bowen, owner of Tax Assist accountants and Chairman of the Round table advised PO Jenkins that

he fully supported Duke Of Edinburgh award schemes as he completed his many years ago and felt that

it taught so much to the participants.

The Scheme challenges youths across the U.K to take part in charity work, sporting activities, and skills as well as the two day expedition, which involves walking with full kit bags, tents etc and cooking for themselves.

Our cadets taking part have begun their training and will hopefully complete their full expedition by August/September.

FIREWALK FOR CHARITY! RAISE FUNDS FOR THE CADETS

PO P Jenkins has been organizing a firewalk for charity event to raise funds not only for the unit but for other charities.

For those of you who do not know, a firewalk is walking over a large pit of fire, of either hot coals or timber and not burning your feet.

People do not quite understand how, but by walking over the fire at a steady pace and with professional teams com-

ing to set up the fire, participants can simply walk over, feeling virtually nothing.

Not only is the fire walk a once in a lifetime opportunity, it is far safer than plummeting out of a plane at 40,000 feet or jumping off a bridge with a glorified elastic band attached to you!

The aim of the event is



Poster for the Fire walk.

to get 30 participants interested, and then ask them to raise at least £100 entrance fee, and also collect sponsorship for a charity or charities of their choice.

We hope to find the 30 participants soon, are you interested?

Get in touch with PO@tsecho.org.uk to let him know!

GOING QUACKERS IN 2010!

TWO, that's right TWO duck races are being planned this year at T.S.ECHO. The first will be held at Carmarthens' Waterside Festival on the 22nd May, with the second provisionally planned at the river Lledi Penygaer Llanelli on the 18th of July.

The races again are going to include the big ducks as seen in the photo, with more businesses being approached to sponsor the event.

The Carmarthenshire County Council are coming in to help us out and may even be purchasing ducks for us and helping us with publicity.

The event in July at Llanelli will be similar to that of last year, with the Sea Cadets in overall control and organizing the event.

I am hoping to recruit as many people as possible to come along and sell ducks at stalls and at work etc.

In Carmarthen we will be tagging onto the extremely successful Carmarthen

Waterside Festival. This includes raft racing, kayaking and various displays. T.S.Echo will also display our new safety boat and man over board drills.

Funds raised at the events will be split between some other charities to show the work that we do can benefit others. Ferryside Inshore Lifeboat, RNLI Burry Port, and Help for Heroes are some of the names in the pipeline.

Once again a lot of planning will be involved but we will try to better the previous years events and hope to have all of your support in 2010!



Corporate ducks line up in 2009!

RAFT RACE 2010

The unit and the Round table will be holding a raft race fundraising event this year at North Dock.

It has been provisionally agreed so far that each raft will cost £35 to enter, and we will be asking for teams in and around Llanelli to enter.

Basic rules are, no hulls and everything must be made on the morning.

Staff and cadets from T.S.Echo will provide safety boat coverage and marshalling duties, and the Round Table has offered half of the total funds raised to T.S.ECHO.

We are aiming to enter a team ourselves into this fun event, but parents, friends and supporters are all invited to get a team together for the event. Ask your work colleagues, friends or

anyone that you know who you believe to be interested in this event. The date of the event is to be the 4th August 2010.

Contact PO Jenkins if you want to enter a team.

“Staff and cadets from T.S.Echo will provide safety boat coverage and marshalling duties”

UNIT REVIEW

The time has come once more for our District Officer Lt Cdr (SCC) A Thomas RNR to visit our unit once more to perform the Unit Review.

Behind the scenes all the staff and committee members have been rushing around to ensure the paper work and last minute touches are complete prior

to the inspection.



Unit Review 2008

As part of the process we have had our annual Health and Safety inspection to ensure that all is safe and well for the training of cadets. The ATTI—Authority to train inspection—will refresh our units authority to train cadets to a high

standard, as expected by the Sea Cadet Corps.

All cadets are asked to attend the event as it is the most important event in our annual calendar.

We are sure you will all do us proud!

Don't forget, March 16th! Best uniform, best attitude and behaviour!

What's coming up?

A list of some of the events that we have planned in the next few weeks.

16th March—Unit Review—IMPORTANT EVENT— The District officer will be visiting the unit on the 16th March 2010. This is a very important event and we ask that ALL cadets attend this night. We are marked on the attendance on the evening. We hope that Parents can also join us on the evening.

19th March - Presentation evening at the Conservative club.

20th March—Recruiting stall and fundraising collection at St Elli *** Important, funds required at Unit!

27th/28th— Recruiting and fundraising weekend at Trostre! Again, important, we need funds!

12th April—Curry Night at Verandah! £10 each with £5 coming back to the unit. Feel free to bring raffle prizes.

April— 23rd—25th—SCTC Weymouth weekend. Cadets will get the opportunity to go to the new Sea Cadet Training Centre at Weymouth.

Get Emails notifying you of all events & activities. Email po@tsecho.org.uk with your email address and cadet name.

Battlefield Live! 6th June 2010

PO Jenkins is also organising a Battlefield Live event to raise funds for the cadets and also the Help for Heroes Charity. Proceeds split 50/50.

This is like Paintball, but basically using a red light (like a laser but harmless) to fire at the enemy! This is played outdoors like paintball and the same equipment, only the weapons are different and there are no projectiles, so you can't get hurt.... Unless you fall.... Note: The event will be at your own risk! Prices estimated at £25-£30. Let PO Jenkins know if you are interested ASAP. This fun event will be run on a Sunday at Pembroke-shires Battlefield Live venue. Transport arranged on request for additional cost.

Staff/Cadet Success!

Staff Courses—PO P Jenkins recently went away to qualify as an Advanced Seamanship Instructor at HMS Raleigh.

Cadet Courses—Staff at T.S.Echo ran courses and qualified 7 cadets, 5 in Seamanship and 2 in Comms! Well done to O/C ELLIOTT, CDT KERR, CDT EVANS, A/C PIZZEY, N/E GODDARD, A/C TOWNEND & O/C TOWNEND.

Congratulations to Pizey who also successfully passed his A/C promotion & also to Elliott who completed his O/C promotion.

One more thing...THE CHAMP IS FIXED!!

INTERVIEW WITH THE STAFF

Favourite Film? The King and I - the original version only

Favourite Song? Phil Collins In the air tonight

Favourite Colour? brown and cream

Hobbies? cooking, sewing, knitting, arts and crafts

When did you join Cadets and why? I first became involved with Cadets in the 1960's when my father was an Officer in the Unit, but I became involved in the teaching and admin side in the 1970's when I came back to Llanelli to live after completing my nursing, midwifery and health visitor training. I wanted to do something with my spare time and I had always been interested helping out and teaching. It's where I met Sir who I married in 1981.

What has been your best moment in the Cadets? My best moment has to be when all my family were out on Parade together - to see them all to-

gether in uniform made me feel so proud.

What is the best thing about volunteering for the cadets? The best thing about volunteering for cadets is the pleasure I get from being with young people and listening to their views, opinion, ideas and hearing about their outlook on life.

What is the worst part of being a volunteer?

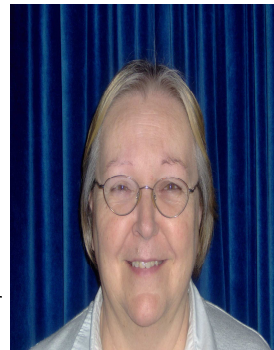
The worst part of volunteering is having to manage all the paperwork that comes down from Area and Headquarters, where they all get paid for doing their job but they expect us to do as much as them - and more sometimes - just because we volunteer

What do the Juniors offer for the fu-

ture of the unit? The Juniors are the future of the Unit - they are so keen, so eager to learn, so eager to help out and hopefully this eagerness will be carried over to when they become enrolled Cadets.

If you had £1m for the cadets, what would you buy? I would probably upgrade lots of things in the Unit, such as the phone system, the radios, extra wet-suits, canoeing helmets and such, possibly buy some scuba gear, and put some money away in investments to provide a regular income for the Unit.

This would ensure that there would always be money to pay for such things as Royalist and to cover the cost of courses for Cadets, so that they would not have to pay themselves - this would probably mean that more Cadets could go on more courses!



Mrs KI