

The Marine Society & Sea Cadets

Message from CSC

As we approach Christmas and the Festive period, it is timely both to reflect on the current year and to look forward to the next. I have been incredibly impressed with all that I have seen since joining as CSC in July. The Units I have visited, fundraising events attended and the national events and competitions have all been excellent. The national Trafalgar Day parade this year held in unseasonably fair autumn weather on behalf of the RN, with Commander in Chief Fleet taking the salute, was an obvious highlight as was the reception for cadets and volunteers at St James' Palace. I am also very conscious of the excellent work taking place below the HQ radar at Unit, District and Area level all around the country on a daily basis.

Looking forward we should all be delighted with the progress being made to provide modern facilities, boats and equipment to ensure the cadet experience is both fun and representative of a modern and relevant 21st century national youth organisation that still has very high standards, traditional values and strong links to the senior service.

The new offshore training ship Jack Petchey is undergoing sea trials now and will become operational with a serving Royal Navy warfare officer as its first commanding officer early next year, thus continuing to reinforce the links to the Senior Service. The fundraising campaign to replace Royalist has begun.

The new pulling boat (Trinity 500) will be rolled out across the Corps nationwide, next year and the state of the art training facilities at Weymouth and potential developments up, down and across the country are particularly exciting prospects.

My underlying impression is of a Sea Cadet Corps that is moving forward while holding onto its traditional roots, values and ethos. I know that change is concerning to many and the Chief Executive and I have been keen to ensure this is measured, well thought through and well explained when necessary.

Next year, the celebrations of Cadet 150 will bring both challenge and opportunity. The challenge being to gain the most visibility and value for the cadets for the least possible investment of staff and cadets' time and of money; the opportunity will be to demonstrate the worth of our movement to new people as part of the general raising of the profile of the MOD Cadet Forces. I intend that our participation in Cadet 150 events both National and regional must not be at the expense of the programmes of training and events which we routinely offer our cadets. We will limit our participation to those events which both offer genuine advantages and which our resources of time and treasure allow.

I look forward to meeting more of you in the New Year and continuing to serve the SCC and the RN with 100% commitment and purpose. Keep up the good work. On behalf of the Chief Executive, myself and all the team in HQ - Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year.



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