

Objectives and Activities

To enhance the lives of children from the age of 10 – 17 through a lot of fun learning on the water and off and our volunteers leading by example. The platform we offer is built on the customs and traditions of the Royal Navy. It inspires our work and commitment to supporting young people today. It provides life skills and builds resilience in a world where children are hooked on computers and mobile phones and are too anxious to leave their homes. Many children come from disadvantaged areas and the sea cadets give them a sense of pride in themselves, their uniform and their achievements.

Over the past 12 months we have held a fundraiser, applied and successfully received funding from Halifax to purchase 6 new kayaks with paddles and safety equipment, Santander to help with the purchase of a new Rigid inflatable Boat and held a weekend residential for 17 cadets at Delamont. Also a very successful Christmas Hamper ballot.

Alongside the usual running of our unit where we practice rowing, kayaking, paddle boarding and all safety procedures that go along side these activities, our Cadets joined the rest in Northern Ireland to a senior summer camp in Weymouth and the juniors also had a camp in Carrickfergus, where they were all able to put these new skills into use and have a great time with their friends. Also parading at the celebrations for VE80 on the Shankill Road and attendance at St Annes Cathedral. Also attending Dame Mary Peters retirement evening, Attended the Harp and Thistle to collect donation, and attended the Paris Celebration, to celebrate the recent Olympics. These are social evenings that the Cadets can look back at and be proud of.

Achievements

The Cadets attended this years National Drill and piping competition and came 1st place. This takes a lot of dedication, commitment, and hard work by each of the cadets involved. We received a Burgee award. It is the highest award that can be awarded to a Sea cadet Unit in recognition of hard work of the Cadets, Volunteers and parent association. Our own Cadet AC Carter was selected to be the 'Lord Lieutenants Cadet' for Belfast. As part of his role Carter assisted the Lord Lieutenant of Belfast during engagements such as Royal Visits.

We have also increased our number of Cadets. This is a great result for us. As volunteers we all give up our free time to help the children that come through the unit to build up friendships, self confidence, self esteem and help them become self-reliant , responsible adults.