



# **Exeter Flotilla**

## **Newsletter**

### **2022/23**

Chairman:  
Treasurer:  
General Secretary:  
Membership Secretary:  
Lecture Secretary:  
Visits Secretary  
Trafalgar Secretary:  
Golf Secretary:  
Newsletter Editor:  
CTCRM Liaison Secretary  
Website Manager

Col. Ian Moore RM  
Mr Ian Yule FRICS  
Capt. James Luard RN  
Surgeon Cdr. Mike Wilson RNR  
2/O Dita Dixon WRNS  
Capt. Mike Croxford RN  
Cdr. Trevor Waddington RN  
Surgeon Cdre. Robert Harland RN  
Surgeon Cdr. Mike Wilson RNR  
Maj. Ralph Howard-Williams RM  
Cdr. Trevor Waddington RN

**123 Members**

# Trafalgar Day Service

23 October 2022



The Service began with seven bells rung on HMS Exeter's bell

Music was provided by HM Band of Royal Marines. Voices of Cambridge Ensemble. Organist Andrew Delorph and trumpeter Eloise Yates.

Officiant: The very Revd. Jonathan Greener - Dean.

Cantor: The Revd Canon James Mustard Canon Precentor.

Sermon: The Rt Revd Nigel Stock.

## Official Guests

Admiral Sir Mark Stanhope, Deputy Lieutenant of Devon

Rear Admiral Rob Pedre, COMUKSF and Flotilla Patron

Commander Sean Brady, Commander HMS Raleigh

Commander Serena Davis, Commanding Officer HMS Vivid

Commodore Andrew Stacey, Commander FOST

Colonel Chris Haw, Commandant CTCRM

Councillor Mrs Yolanda Henson, Lord Mayor of Exeter

Mr Richard Youngman, High Sheriff of Devon





**A little over £300 was raised for RN and RM charities**



**The Reception in the Cloisters**



**Lunch at Cote Brasserie**

## Exmouth Sea Cadets

9 November 2022



Cdr Waddington presented several awards to TS Exmouth's cadets, including the 'Harry Jagger Trophy' to the cadet achieving the highest marks on an Engineering Course.

# HMS DEFENDER

10 - 11 Feb 2023

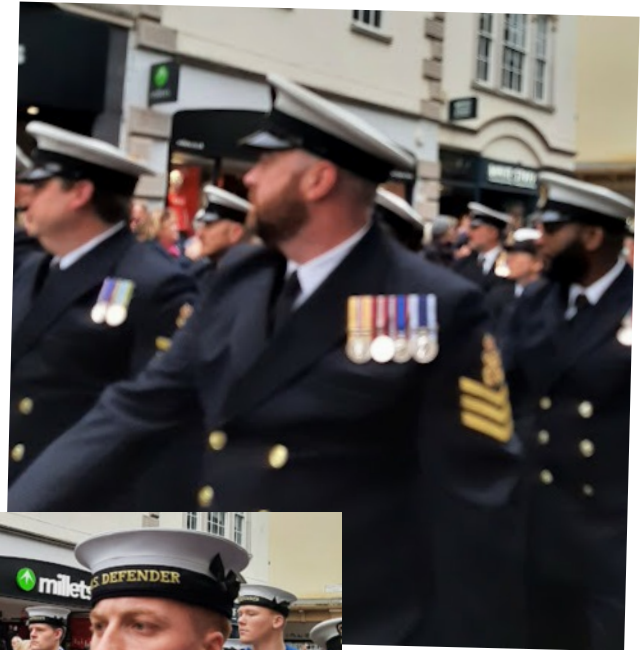
## HMS DEFENDER'S MARCH THROUGH EXETER AS FREEMEN

The Freedom celebration began on the evening of Friday 10 February with a reception at the Guildhall for officers and selected ratings. Admiral Sir Mark Stanhope represented the Lord Lieutenant, and Commander Trevor Waddington was honoured to represent the Exeter Flotilla. A welcome Speech was made by the Lord Mayor, Councillor Yolanda Henson, and Commander Peter Evans RN, Captain of HMS Defender responded.



On Saturday 11 February the Band of His Majesty's Royal Marines from CTCRM Lympstone led a ship's company of over 180 sailors from HMS Defender to exercise their right as Freemen of the City of Exeter to march through the streets with fixed bayonets and Colours flying. The Colour party carried both the White Ensign and the Freedom Scroll which was presented to Defender when the Freedom was granted in 2014. Members of the public applauded as they marched from St James Park along Sidwell Street to the Guildhall for the salute by the Lord Mayor. Then they marched on to the West front of the Cathedral where the guard and divisions of the ship's company were inspected by the Lord Mayor and Brigadier 'Jock' Fraser, Naval Regional Commander for Western England. The dignitaries and public were treated to a display by the Royal Marines Band.

*Freedom of a city is an ancient honour granted to martial organisations, allowing them the privilege to march into the city 'with drums beating and colours flying and bayonets fixed.*





## **Annual Dinner**

### **25<sup>th</sup> November, 2022**

This year the Officers' Mess was not available. Instead we were handsomely accommodated in the Sergeants' Mess.



The evening commenced with a Mess Beating by four drummers of the Royal Naval Dockyard Historical Group in period uniform. Throughout the evening a musical duo from the Devon & Somerset Fire and Rescue Service entertained us.

The toasts were to 1. His Majesty the King, 2. The memory of her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth, 3. Absent Friends, 4. The Exeter Flotilla. The guest of honour was General Andy Salmon who spoke about A Journey through Conflict. A Candle was left burning at the end of the Dinner to remember those members who had passed away.

## **Annual Lunch**

### **Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2023**

#### **CTCRM**

Guest of Honour: Lieutenant Colonel Simon Tucker RM Corps  
Colonel CTCRM

Guest Member: Commander and Mrs Chris Cole.



## **Visit to Fenix Carriages, Cullompton**

**23<sup>rd</sup> May 2023**

About 30 members attended this super visit arranged by Ian Yule and hosted by Mark Broadbent, owner of Fenix Carriages and Driving Centre.

Mark started his carriage driving career at the age of eight and has competed successfully for more than 40 years. He is one of the few craftsmen in the country who restores and preserves carriages from all ages and is the current President of the Coaching Club of Great Britain.

The museum houses 24 coaches of various descriptions. Mark explained how this form of transport developed from a gig, to a dog cart, to a wagonette, to a phaeton, and finally a stage coach used by mail companies and the aristocracy.



## Visit to MSubs, Plymouth

5<sup>th</sup> July 2023



Following the most interesting talk by Brett Phaneuf at a Flotilla evening in March twenty members and guests visited MSubs at an industrial complex in Plymouth. Brett showed us around the site starting with the area where the Design Team work at their computers. Then we moved on to the enormous areas where engineers built their submarines (see behind us in the photograph).

Brett overflowed with information about how the company's mini-submarines were built and used by the Royal Navy and the US Navy. And, how silent they could be as they listened to shipping above them. We saw a welder working out how to weld titanium and we felt a small bar of it. Brett explained why the Triton Deep Submergence Vehicle had imploded killing all on board. Why it was cheaper to build in UK than the USA, the problems of employing female engineers etc. etc. ....

## Dartmoor Inn

Following the visit to MSubs many of us went to the Dartmoor Inn where Ian Moore had arranged lunch for us.



## **Exeter Flotilla Golf and Summer Dinner.**

**20 July 2023**



The Annual Golf and Summer Dinner was held at East Devon Golf Club on the 20<sup>th</sup> July 2023 in glorious weather and surroundings.

Seven golfers including three guests competed for the Exeter Flotilla Trophy over 18 holes which was won by Brig. Paul Denning RM Rtd. with 35 Stableford points, - a guest of Ian Corner who also invited two other distinguished retired RM Officers.

Paul has promised to return next year to defend the trophy when it is hoped and anticipated that by then he and the other Service members guests may have become Flotilla members.

The trophy was presented by Ian Moore the Flotilla Chairman during the course of the meal along with golf balls to the other golfers.

Twenty six members and guests sat down to a truly delicious three course meal, with coffee, mints and port - unfortunately there had been five late absentees of members and guests due to health problems.

The usual Naval Traditions were observed and we toasted the health of King Charles seated.

Several good quality jokes were provided by Robert Harland and a short interesting history of the involvement of the Marines in the capture of Gibraltar in 1704 was given by Kathleen Harland a Naval Historian. Since 1827 the word Gibraltar has been incorporated into the cap badge of the Royal Marines as a consequence.

A happy, jolly relaxed time was had by all and it is hoped that next year on the 1<sup>st</sup> August 2024 that more members with guests if possible will be able to attend. It must be stressed that the Dinner is designed for ALL members/ partners/guests, not only golfers - it is after all the Annual Summer event for the Flotilla.- See you all there !!

## 2023 Lecture Topics

### **10 January The UK National Hydrographer – by RAdm Rhett Hatcher**

Rhett Hatcher will provide insight into his role as National Hydrographer, and Director for Defence and Data Acquisition. He is responsible for building the partnerships that underpin the UK Hydrographic Office's role as a world-leading centre for hydrography and marine geospatial data. By working with these national and international partnerships, the UKHO is able to develop world leading products, spanning from seabed to surface, offshore and globally.

### **14 February Spitfire Girl – by Candy Adkins**

Candy Adkins will speak about her mother, Jackie Moggridge who was the youngest person to gain her private pilot licence, joined the Air Transport Auxiliary (ATA) when war broke out and flew 82 different types of warplane. She sometimes flew 5 different warplanes a day with only a map and a compass as just a job to get on with, one that she felt privileged to do. Candy will bring Jackie's war memorabilia logbooks, photos and press cuttings and provide a lively and fun talk about her mother's adventures during and following the war.

### **14 March Mayflower Autonomous Ship (MAS) – by Brett Phaneuf**

On 30 June 2022, the MAS arrived in Plymouth, Massachusetts, having crossed the Atlantic Ocean from Plymouth UK, with stops in the Azores and Halifax - a ship without a human captain or crew.

Brett Phaneuf is a Founding Board Member of ProMare and Managing Director of the Mayflower Autonomous Ship - a submarine builder by trade and an expert in robotics and underwater systems. At a 400th Mayflower Anniversary meeting in 2016 Phaneuf didn't support building another Mayflower replica. Instead, he suggested doing something bold, courageous and new: building a Mayflower for the 21st century. He will recount the development and launch of this futuristic vessel which has gained the support of multiple companies and organisations all over the world.

### **9 May Ghost Ships – Fact and Fable – by Ken Atherton**

There are plenty of mysteriously fated ship stories recorded throughout history, from the abandoned Mary Celeste in the 1870s to the SS Baychimo that has been spotted floating aimlessly over the years, and the spooky sea omen of the phantom Flying Dutchman. Ken Atherton will introduce us to some of the most famous (and mysterious) ghost ships and their histories, along with legends of phantom ships that are still said to roam the seven seas.

### **13 June Her Majesty's Yacht Britannia– by Lt Cdr Nicko Franks**

The former royal yacht of the British monarchy was in service from 1954 until 1997. During her 43-year career, the yacht travelled more than a million nautical miles around the world to more than 600 ports in 135 countries. Nicko Franks, who served on board HMY BRITANNIA as First Lieutenant from 1975-77 will share his experience which included the Silver Jubilee Round the World voyage.

### **11 July Signals Intelligence in the Battle of the Atlantic – by Clovis Meath Baker**

Defeating the German U-boat threat in the North Atlantic was vital to Britain's survival and eventual victory in WW2. A crucial advantage to the Allies was the British success in breaking the German Enigma cypher system, particularly the naval version. Clovis will examine the role played by Bletchley Park in the Battle of the Atlantic, and draw from this some enduring principles about Signals Intelligence in the modern world.

## HMS Defender



**One of the busiest destroyers in the Royal Navy has returned home to Portsmouth – bringing the curtain down on the first act of her career ahead of a two-year refit.**

Since her maiden voyage from Glasgow more than ten years' ago, Defender has steamed the equivalent of 12 times around the world, covered every major ocean – bar the Antarctic – and most of the world's seas, and was first Type 45 to conduct winter operations deep inside the Arctic Circle.

More importantly... across the last decade, the ship's sailors chomped through 42km of sausages and ate four times the 8,500-tonne destroyer's weight in baked beans.

The ship fired more than 7,000 rounds of their main naval gun, sailed more than 300,000 nautical miles and destroyed three target drones using their Sea Viper missile system.

Defender's refit is scheduled to include the Type 45 Power Improvement Plan – giving her three new efficient engines to replace two original diesel units, a major upgrade to the Sea Viper anti-air missile system to both deal with the latest threats and increasing silo capacity by 50 per cent, plus other major work which cannot be done as part of routine maintenance.

Commanding Officer, Commander Peter Evans, said: "We are marking a happy but solemn bookend on an amazing ten years of front-line service.

"Defender has delivered the best availability of any Type 45 destroyer and has operated all over the world; this is not solely down to British Engineering, but to the elite sailors who operate, maintain and support our efforts."

Defender has been at the heart of joint operations with the UK's allies, having completed four operations and four exercises this last year alone, escorted the first UK carrier global task force deployment in 2021, and is routinely the escort of choice to defend the US aircraft carriers – a privilege that is not normally entrusted to any other nation.

Her final visit before arriving in Portsmouth was to Glasgow – a fitting end, because this is where she was laid down and launched.

During the visit, she handed over her affiliates to HMS Glasgow, one of the Royal Navy's new generation of submarine-hunting frigates.

<https://www.royalnavy.mod.uk/news-and-latest-activity/news/2023/june/26/230626-defender-heads-for-refit>