

HMS Prince of Wales



“Ich Dien – I Serve”

Friends, Families & Affiliates Newsletter Issue 05 | Christmas 2018



PWLS £100K Charity Drive

Captain Steve Moorhouse has challenged the Ship's Company to raise £100K before the ship sails from Scotland next year. The HMS Prince of Wales fundraising effort commenced with a charity abseil down the largest crane in Britain. The enormous crane was specially built for the construction of the Queen Elizabeth-class aircraft carriers in Rosyth.

A 300ft abseil from the top of the crane to the bottom of the dry dock where, until last year HMS Prince of Wales sat, marked the start of a year of fundraising. Monies raised will be split between the Royal Navy and Royal Marines Charity (RNRMC) and a range of other Ship's Company charities.

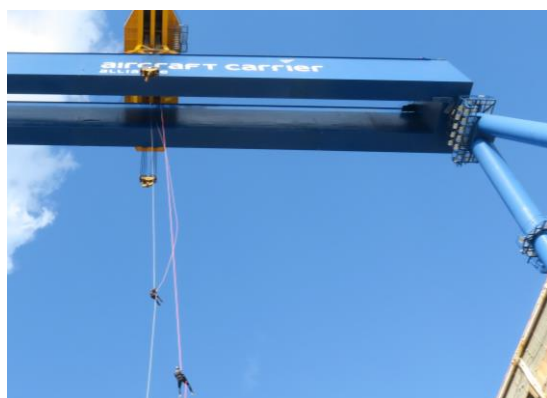
Just before 'jumping' off the crane, Captain Moorhouse said, "My Ship's Company are hugely enthusiastic and keen to show what they're capable of, even before the ship is accepted into service.

"As the navy's largest ship, I set them the challenge to raise £100,000 for charitable causes before we sail from Rosyth in 2019. It was therefore only fair that I set them on their way by volunteering to undertake the 90m abseil myself."

The abseil, completed by HMS Prince of Wales crew and industry partners, raised over £10,000 which will be split between the RNRMC and Children's Hospice Across Scotland (CHAS).

Warrant Officer 1 Neil D'arcy said: "This was a once in a lifetime opportunity and to be able to raise money for RNRMC and CHAS was great."

The crew will continue raise funds throughout 2019.



A Message from the Commanding Officer



Dear Friends and Families,

I am delighted to be able to write to you as the first Commanding Officer of HMS Prince of Wales. As you will see from this newsletter the Ship's Company have been incredibly busy throughout 2018, not only supporting the build of HMS Prince of Wales but also undertaking a range of events up and down the country with our friends and affiliates. The progress in 2018 has been immense with the Ship's Control Centre, Operations Room and Bridge all being handed over to the Royal Navy from contractors. We now have radars turning and diesel generators powering the Ship – lots of activity to keep our engineers busy. Away from the hard work building the ship and setting to work key equipment, my sailors have been supporting a wide range of activities across the country. Be it charitable causes to meet my £100K challenge, supporting Remembrance commemorations, STEM activities, adventurous training or sports matches, they have risen to the challenge and demonstrated the spirit and ethos that is so vital to a Ship's Company. I'm acutely aware however, that none of this would be possible without the continued support of our families, friends and affiliates. I therefore want to thank each of you for your understanding and friendship and ask for your continued support as we prepare for sea in autumn 2019. Enjoy the newsletter and I wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Prince of Wales Sailors Take Control – of Control Centre

The heart of HMS Prince of Wales is now in the hands of the men and women who will watch over it as we take a huge step towards sailing from Rosyth in 2019.

The Ship's Control Centre (SCC) has been formally handed over to the Royal Navy from the Aircraft Carrier Alliance who've built and fitted out the ship – it is now ours to run and we now control and coordinate all activity from here.

“If the bridge of a ship is considered its eyes, and the operations room its brain, there is no doubt that the Ship's Control Centre is the beating heart,” said Cdr Pete Buckenham, Commander Marine Engineering.

All the carrier's machinery – from propulsion to sewage and water works – are controlled from the SCC. with a team of engineers watching over the displays and read-outs 24 hours a day, every day, until the warship decommissions in 50 years' time.

And in time of war, the SCC becomes the headquarters for the 'internal battle' – it's where all information from around the ship about damage sustained – fires, floods, breakdowns and casualties – are reported and the damage control officer determines where to send repair teams, firefighters and first aid parties with the goal of keeping the ship in the fight.

Cdr Buckenham added: “Taking ownership of the SCC is a significant achievement and testament to the collaborative and integrated approach between industry and the Royal Navy. Having the ability to operate from the SCC enables us to support industry through commissioning and trials activity and to learn our ship, systems and equipment in preparation for sea trials and future operations.”



Nerve Centre of Carrier Ready for Action



The 'warfighting' nerve centre of HMS Prince of Wales has also been 'flushed up' for the first time.

It is from the sprawling operations room and its many radar and computer terminals that the Ship's Company will detect threats and coordinate the F-35B Lightning jets and Merlin helicopters, directing missions as varied as intercepting hostile aircraft, to striking targets on land or delivering humanitarian aid in a disaster zone.

Working hand-in-hand Royal Navy experts along with engineers and technicians from the Aircraft Carrier Alliance have worked tirelessly to ensure that all the equipment and cabling is in place and, most importantly, that the computer systems 'talk' to each other. This will ensure that the masses of data coming into the ship from

her own sensors such as her radar, as well as information from her aircraft and other ships in the Task Group, or friendly forces ashore, can be meshed together accurately for operators to pass to the Command Team so that they can make key decisions in good time.

Chief Petty Officer Greg Connor, the Ops Room manager, said allowing his team to move in to the complex was “a momentous occasion. This milestone represents the heart of the warfare fighting elements of the ship coming to fruition. The Warfare Department now has its sights firmly set on preparing the ship and team as more and more systems are brought online.”

Handing the compartment over to the Ship's company was production manager David Scott “The operations complex has been over three years in the making for me - and much longer for others,” he explained.

In all, more than 3,000 compartments must be signed off before the carrier leaves her berth at Rosyth to undergo sea trials next year.

STEM Event Rockets to Success

In the spring, sailors from HMS Prince of Wales lent their engineering experience to school children from around the East Central Scotland region as part of a programme to broaden under 13s experience of Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM). The regional final of the Race for the Line competition was held in MOD Caledonia, the accommodation base for HMS Prince of Wales' Ship's Company.

The event, which took place in March, saw 120 schoolchildren from 10 different local schools constructing and racing model rocket cars across the parade ground. As part of the Bloodhound land speed record attempt project Royal Navy teams have been out to schools across Scotland to promote STEM.

Lt Glen Kerrigan said "HMS Prince of Wales was delighted to run Race For the Line Event, we've been helping out pupils in schools around Edinburgh for the last couple of months, from as north as Dundee to as south as Eyemouth.

"The event is aimed at encouraging kids to take up STEM subjects and all of them have been very enthusiastic about building rocket motor cars and racing them!"

Some impressive designs were on display showing that the children had given some real thought and ingenuity into their car, helped by Engineers from the Ship.

The fastest car went to St Thomas of Aquins RC High School for their car 'MMKT' with a blistering speed of 58mph.



Engineering Awards for HMS Prince of Wales Duo



Two annual HMS Prince of Wales engineering awards have been established and given out for the first time this year.

The Admiral Wildish Award for Engineering Innovation was presented to CPOET(EL) Russell Kerwin, the Power Group Head within the ME Department, while the Cdr ME Award for Engineering Excellence went to LETME(EL) Marc Dredge.

CPO Kerwin, who received his award from VAdm Wildish's daughter Angela Nicholson, also received a cheque for £200 and his name was engraved alongside a silver salver, which was presented to the Admiral by the Wardroom of the battleship HMS Prince of Wales in 1941.

The award is open to all Junior Rates, Senior Rates, Warrant Officers, or Commissioned Officers of any Engineering Department serving in the aircraft carrier.

Lt Alex Chenery said, "CPO Kerwin has been an indispensable figure in preparing both Ship's company and Prince of Wales herself for becoming high-voltage live.

LET Dredge received his award from Cdre Barry Brooks, from the Worshipful Company of Engineers, one of the sponsors. He also received £100.

Propulsion Manager WO1 Mark Hinton said, "Knowledgeable, inspirational and enthusiastic to boot, LET Dredge continues to impress his peers and superiors with his unwavering determination and willingness to get the job done."

Both awards are sponsored by the Institute of Marine Engineering, Science and Technology (IMarEST) and The Worshipful Company of Engineers.



Blowing Out the Cobwebs: First Diesel Online

HMS Prince of Wales' first mighty diesel generator has been powered-up marking a major milestone on the way to becoming an operational warship.

The Ship has undergone months of preparation work by the Aircraft Carrier Alliance (ACA) to bring the Ship to life by starting one of her four diesel engines, which are directly coupled to the generators.

The initial run of the diesel generator was the culmination of years of hard work and marks another key step towards getting to sea as more and more systems and equipment are brought to life during Commissioning.

The morning began with inspections and safety rounds to ensure the engine and compartments were safe

to conduct a start. The engine was rotated using the air start system to clear the cylinders and confirm it could turn freely. A team of around 40 people were briefed on the procedure prior to going to various compartments throughout the Ship, ensuring that we maintained a safe working environment prior to beginning the first run. The confirmation that we were ready was given and a warning pipe made, so that with a push of a button, HMS Prince of Wales successfully started its first diesel engine, proudly producing a cloud of smoke into the blue sky. This is one of four diesel generators that are fitted to the Ship and will be capable of producing 10% of her overall power output.

Simon Lister, ACA Managing Director said "To all involved, and that is a large proportion of the entire workforce, my thanks and congratulations on achieving the first diesel start. This has seen focussed effort, great innovation, real perseverance in the face of setbacks, and a commitment to quality that has been truly impressive. These are becoming the hallmarks of PWLS. Great teamwork from a large number of groups and individuals. Well done, thank you, and now for the gas turbines!"

Lt James Sheridan-Browne, the power and propulsion engineering officer, said: "With the first run of HMS Prince of Wales' diesel generators now complete, the Ship is truly coming to life on its own systems. The running of diesel generators will now continue to provide a steady drumbeat to sailing the Ship to Portsmouth in 2019."



Charity Coffee Morning

Three HMS Prince of Wales sailors from the Logistics Department put their baking skills to the test in organising a charity coffee morning for Macmillan Cancer Support.

The event was coordinated as part of the 2018 World's Biggest Coffee Morning which saw fundraising events taking place all over the world to raise money for Macmillan.

On offer was a huge selection of cakes and treats which were soon devoured by the Ship's Company.

SC Jodie McSkimmings, one of the organisers, said: "Macmillan is a charity close to my heart, so it was great to see so many people come out to support. In the end we raised £657 which will go towards supporting the excellent work that Macmillan do".



Bristol Affiliation Inaugurated at SS Great Britain

The Band of Her Majesty's Royal Marines provided the music and spectacle, while Isambard Kingdom Brunel provided the engineering backdrop as Britain's newest carrier was formally bound with Bristol.

Sailors from HMS Prince of Wales made the 370-mile trip from Rosyth to SS Great Britain to inaugurate the affiliation between the second of the nation's future flagships and one of its great seafaring cities.

Twenty carrier sailors met with Bristol businesses such as Rolls-Royce and BT, college students, youth groups and civic leaders, headed by the Lord-Lieutenant of the County and City of Bristol Lois Patricia 'Peaches' Golding; she took the salute from the RM musicians as they performed the traditional Beat Retreat.

HMS Prince of Wales is affiliated with two cities Bristol and Liverpool. The Ship counts sailors from both cities among her Ship's company; Bristolians were interviewed by the Bristol Post, whose journalists had been invited to the Firth of Forth to see the 65,000-tonne leviathan being fitted out.

Weapon engineer CPOET(WE) Andrew Duchense said "My family have visited ships in Portsmouth, but having a link to my hometown makes this all the more special". For Ship and city, the event marked the beginning of a 50-year link between the two. To cement that bond initially, the Ship will support and assist science and technology events involving Bristol schools and colleges. And aboard the carrier, the Bristol suite will start to take shape – a series of rooms/compartments which will serve as the diplomatic/ambassadorial quarters when the carrier is flying the flag for UK on deployment.

Lt Alex Chenery, said: "It's been a great opportunity for our city to forge permanent bond with one of the greatest engineering undertakings of the UK in modern times."



PWLS Sailors Support Remembrance



Sailors from HMS Prince of Wales supported Remembrance 2018 at events across the country. In our affiliated cities of Bristol and Liverpool platoons of sailors took part in official remembrance events to mark 100 years since the end of the First World War.

As well as the ceremonial events dozens of PWLS crew gave up their time to sell poppies in Edinburgh and Bristol.

Writer Charlotte Vowles said, "It was an honour to be able to do my part for the poppy appeal in Bristol this year. The Royal British Legion is a fantastic charity which helps not only veterans but serving military personnel from all services and it is my pleasure to help raise funds for this year's poppy appeal in one of the ships affiliate cities".



Sailors Cook up a Taste of the Commonwealth



Sailors from HMS Prince of Wales offered their shipmates a taste of the Commonwealth to officially launch a Commonwealth network on board the Ship.

Commonwealth sailors produced a feast of national dishes to share with their colleagues. On the menu were dishes from St Vincent, Trinidad & Tobago, Nigeria and Jamaica. These were made by Commonwealth sailors from the Ship itself - Chief Petty Officer Richard Dover, Petty Officers Lionel Harry, Ianna Parsons and Ash McMillan, Leading Hands Omar Gilchrist and Kevin Joseph, and Able Rate Michael Odeme.

Leading Hand Kevin Joseph said: "I decided to take the mantle and organise this event as I have found it is

a great way to bring people together while spreading awareness of the Commonwealth Network. It also has the added bonus of officially launching the Commonwealth Network on board our aircraft carrier and in Scotland."

The event was held as part of the Commonwealth Big Lunch initiative which aims to bring people together to share food and celebrate their Commonwealth connections. It was kindly supported by the Royal Navy & Royal Marines Charity and Royal Navy Welfare.

Able Rate Joshi Smith, who comes from the Island of Saint Vincent & The Grenadines, said: "I wanted to join the Royal Navy since I was a young boy as I wanted to meet people, travel the world and follow in my sister's footsteps, who served as a Writer for 15 years. It is important to be a part of the Commonwealth Network because I identify well with the network and what it is about. As someone who wants nothing but equality and diversity, this network is ideal for that reason."

RN Sailors Are National Champions



A Marine Engineer from HMS Prince of Wales has captained the Royal Navy Sailing Team to become the 2018 J109 National Champions after a nail biting Regatta run by the Island Sailing Club in Cowes.

CPO(ET)ME Joe Henry skippered the team as they competed in the Royal Navy Sailing Association's 36-foot racing yacht 'Jolly Jack Tar' against other crack UK teams.

The Regatta took place over the late May Bank Holiday and saw the team of 8 racing in a variety of conditions – from the lightest of summer breezes building to Force 6. With strong performances throughout the competition, and having won 2 of their 5 races, the RN team sat in second place coming in to the final day.

They started the tense final race in the lead group and fought tooth and nail to hold their position around the course and prevent the other lead boats from over-taking. The crew narrowly managed to score another 2nd place and punched the air in delight as they crossed the finish line and re-claimed the National Championship.

CPO Henry said "The team was consistently strong throughout the Regatta but it was the work put in prior to the race day that really made the difference. From working hard throughout the winter maintaining the boat to putting in the hours of training needed to fight off the competition I couldn't have asked for more"